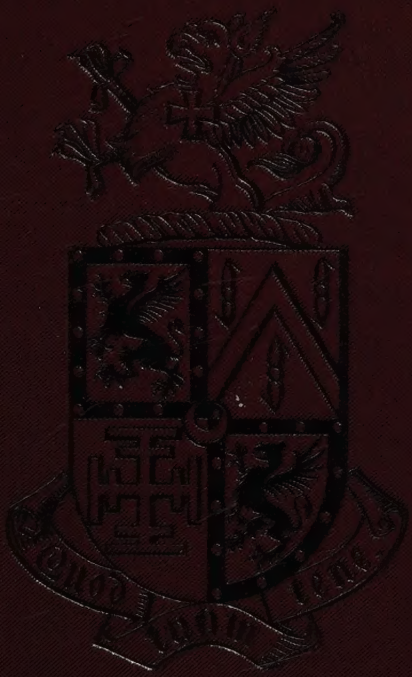

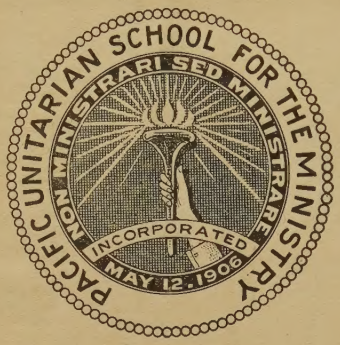

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Lancaster and Chester.

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3. That the affairs of the Society be conducted by a Council, consisting of a permanent President and Vice-President, and twelve other members, including a Treasurer and Secretary, all of whom shall be elected, the first two at the general meeting next after a vacancy shall occur, and the twelve other members at the general meeting annually.

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.

NEW SERIES.

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Vol. 1. The Vicars of Rochdale. By the late Rev. Canon Raines, M.A., F.S.A. Edited by HENRY H. HOWORTH, F.S.A. Part 1. *pp.* xiii. 200.

Vol. 2. The Vicars of Rochdale. Part 2. *pp.* 201–391.

Vol. 3. Lancashire and Cheshire Wills and Inventories at Chester, with an Appendix of Abstracts of Wills now Lost or Destroyed. Transcribed by the late Rev. G. J. PICCOPE, M.A. Edited by J. P. EARWAKER, M.A., F.S.A. *pp.* x. 262.

SECOND YEAR (1883–4).

Vol. 4. The *Catechisme, or a Christian Doctrine necessary for Children and Ignorant people*, of Lawrence Vaux, 1574, sometime Warden of the Collegiate Church, Manchester. Edited by T. G. LAW, Esq., Signet Library, Edinburgh. *pp.* cx. 111.

Vol. 5. The Rectors of Manchester, and the Wardens of the Collegiate Church of that Town. By the late Rev. F. R. RAINES, M.A. Edited by J. E. BAILEY, F.S.A. Part I. The Rectors; Warden Huntingdon to Warden Chaderton. *pp.* xx. 100.

Vol. 6. The Rectors of Manchester, and the Wardens of the Collegiate Church of that Town. Part II. Warden Dee to Warden Herbert. *pp.* 101–206.

THIRD YEAR (1884–5).

Vol. 7. The Old Church and School Libraries of Lancashire. With Bibliographical and other Illustrations. By RICHARD COPLEY CHRISTIE. *pp.* xiii. 215.

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FOURTH YEAR (1885–6).

Vol. 10. The History of the Parish of Bispham. By HENRY FISHWICK, F.S.A. *pp.* 143.

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Vol. 13. A Bibliography of the Works Written and Edited by Dr. Worthington. By R. C. CHRISTIE. *pp.* vii. 88.

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Vol. 15. The History of the Church and Manor of Wigan. Part I. By the Hon. and Rev. CANON BRIDGEMAN. *pp.* vii. 180.

SIXTH YEAR (1887–8).

Vol. 16. The History of the Church and Manor of Wigan. Part II. By the Hon. and Rev. CANON BRIDGEMAN. *pp.* 181–460.

Vol. 17. The History of the Church and Manor of Wigan. Part III. By the Hon. and Rev. CANON BRIDGEMAN. *pp.* 461–684.

Vol. 18. The History of the Church and Manor of Wigan. Part IV. By the Hon. and Rev. CANON BRIDGEMAN. *pp.* 685–836. *(Conclusion.)*

SEVENTH YEAR (1888–9).

Vol. 19. Correspondence of Edward, Third Earl of Derby, during the years 24 to 31 Henry VIII. Edited by T. NORTHCOTE TOLLER, M.A. *pp.* xxvi. 138.

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Vol. 21. Lives of the Fellows of the College of Manchester. Part I. By the late F. R. Raines, M.A. Edited by FRANK RENAUD, M.D. *pp.* xiv. 210.

EIGHTH YEAR (1889–90).

Vol. 22. The Minutes of the Manchester Presbyterian Classis, 1646–1660. Part II. Edited by WM. A. SHAW, M.A. *pp.* 83–281.

Vol. 23. Lives of the Fellows of the College of Manchester. Part II. By the late F. R. Raines, M.A. Edited by FRANK RENAUD, M.D. With two illustrations. *pp.* 211–398.

NINTH YEAR (1890–91).

Vol. 24. The Minutes of the Manchester Presbyterian Classis, 1646–1660. Part III. Edited by WM. A. SHAW, M.A. *pp.* 283–464. *(Conclusion.)*

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14460

MINUTES

OF THE

Manchester Presbyterian Classis,

1646–1660.

EDITED BY

WILLIAM A. SHAW, M.A.,

Berkeley Fellow of Owens College.

PART III.

PRINTED FOR THE CHETHAM SOCIETY.
1891.

PRINTED BY CHARLES E. SIMMS,
MANCHESTER.

The Minutes of the Manchester Classis.

PART III.

[*For an Account of all the Ministers mentioned in these Minutes see the Appendix.*]

The 134 MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 9°, 165$\frac{7}{8}$.

1.—Mr. Miller preached for Mr. Browne before the classe.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpp deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers ; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; Capt. Booth, Robert Collier, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harison, minister ; Captain Sandiford, Lawrance Wright, elders.

Newton : No minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton : Mr. Leigh, minister ; Thomas Strangwayes, Esqr, Alexander Heron, elders.

Chourlton : Mr. Jackson, minister ; James Chorlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Blakeley : Mr. Holland, minister ; Samuell Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Eccles : Mr. Jones, minister ; no elder.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; James Lees, John Lees, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coulburne, minister; Thomas Smith, Gyles Lomax, elders.

Salford, Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Stretford: No minister; no elder.

Ringley: No minister; Mr. Mort, an elder.

4.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Flixton the third Tuesday in May next.

5.—Nicholas Mosley, Esq., with other gentlemen, brought an other paper to the classe subscribed by Mr. Allen, the said Mr. Mosley, etc., the w^{ch} was read, and because in the latter end of it they hinted their unsatisfiednes in what was alleaged in our papers in answeare to theire first, for the proof of our authority for the exercise of the present goverment from the law of the land now in force, the classe resolved to wave any other matter tendred in the last paper till they made out their exceptions in that thing, and this answeare was returned to the foresaid gentlemen, viz^{t}: That the classe did desire they would make out what they seemed to assert ag^{tt} the validitie of our acteinge in the Presbiteriall goverm^{tt} by vertue of civill authority.

6.—Mr. Jackson, minister of Chourlton, being upon some mocons for his removeall from that place, in respect of the shortnes of his maintenance, w^{ch} was manifest to this classe; but severall of the people appeareinge and declareinge the good successe Mr. Jackson (through God's blessing) hath had in his ministry since his comeinge thither, and that the people was generally inclined to an earnest desire of his continuance, the classe appointed severall ministers to goe to the said people of Chourlton, to endeavour to accomodate the busines soe that Mr. Jackson might bee continued amongst them.

The day appointed was May 31, in the afternoone, about twoe

of the clocke. Mr. Harison desired to preach a sermon to the people upon the meeteinge: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Angier, Mr. Newcome desired to meete Mr. Harison there for the end aforesaid.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Mr. Angier, junior, to preach next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 135th MEETEINGE at Manchester, Aprill 13°, 1658.

1.—Mr. Pyke preached for Mr. Angier, junior.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge.

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, Mr. Browne, ministers; Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robert Leech, Robert Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier not well, sent his excuse, & approved; Capt. Booth, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Salford: No minister; Mr. Ouldfield, William Higinbothom, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; Peter Seddon, junior, an elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones not well, now excused; Thomas Fylds, William Smith, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh gone from home, excused; Robt. Hulme, Wim. Birtinshawe, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker gone from home, excused; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; no elder.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Nicholas Mosley, Esq., and several other of the gentlemen as before, attended the classe with an answeare to the classis last paper. The classe, takeinge into consideration the other continued weighty business that were upon them, whereby they could not bee free to continue this matter in debate by writeinge, thought fitt to refer it to a comittee to meete with a certaine number of the subscribers of the aforesaid paper, to debate the matters further therein conteyned, if neede required, for mutuall satisfaccion, w^ch^ being consented unto by such of the gentlemen as were present, the classe appointed Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Angier, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Harison, Mr. Constantine, and the rest of the ministers within this classe, as also Mr. Hyde, Capt^tt^ Ashton, Mr. Wrigley, Mr. Wickins, Mr. Meare, Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Byrom, Mr. Buxton, Mr. Wollen, Mr. Ouldfield, Mr. Higinbothom, or any six of them, to bee a comittee for this purpose, & the comittee to meet the 28^o^ Aprill instant, and after to meet the foresaid gentlemen at such tyme and place as may be agreed on by both parties.

5.—Delegated from Manchester to attend the Provinciall Assembly at Preston the first Wednesday in May next:

Mr. Harison, Mr. Constantyne, Mr. Walker, or Mr. Coleburne, } ministers.

Capt^tt^ Dickenson, Capt^tt^ Sandiford, Mr. Mort, Thomas Berron, John Lees, Joshuah Taylor, } elders.

6.—The busines of personal instruction & catachiseinge of whole families accordinge to the intencons of the classe, declared and published to that purpose, was taken into consideration, and it was concluded it should bee sett upon in the month of May next ensueinge in the severall congregacons within this classe. And that it be referred to the discreation of the ministers in the severall congregacons, with the advice of the elders, whether to give notice to severall families to meete at a tyme in the publicke place of assembly, or in the minister's house, or where there are severall townshipps in the same parish or congregacon, in some one house in such townshipps, for those within that compasse & division.

7.—Mr. Harison, and Mr. Newcome gave an account of the meeteinge at Chourlton according to the order of the last classe, and the result of it was that agreement was made betweene Mr. Jackson and the people there, that Mr. Jackson should continue there for one yeare more, & that the people should engage to make up the augmentacon of £35 per annum £50, for the which addicon Joshua Taylor, Jonathan Gee, James Parkinson, Henry Mason, John Harison, Richard Barlow, did engage themselves at the said meeteinge; as alsoe to use their utmost endeavor to procure what was in arreare by vertue of former Covenants to the fores^d^ Mr. Jackson, as alsoe to doe what they could for a further addicon of £5 more to the foresaid £50 for this present year; and that in case the £15 was not paid accordinge to this agreement, that then Mr. Jackson should bee free to remove by consent of the people at the yeares' end upon the classe heareinge and judgeinge of such default by them made, w^ch^ agreement was approved by the present classe.

8.—Mr. Coleburne, or Mr. Angier, one of them, to preach at the classicall exercise at Flixton, & Mr. Newcome, & Mr. Jackson to take care to provide an other to joyne with one of them.

9.—An exercise to bee at Ashton-under-lyne the third Tuesday in June next.

Mr. Walton, or Mr. Jackson, to preach the next classe.

Mr. Harrison moderator next classe.
Next classe to bee the 2° Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The MEETEINGE the 136th at Manchester, 11° May, 1658.

1.—Mr. Halls preached before the classe for Mr. Walton.
2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.
3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Newcome, minister ; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robt. Lees, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harison, minister ; Isaac Dehowe, Robt. Lees, elders.

Ouldham : Mr. Constantine, minister ; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Newton : Mr. Walker, minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley : Mr. Holland, minister ; Samuell Tayler, John Travis, elders.

Chourlton : Mr. Jackson, minister ; James Chorlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ringley : Mr. Angier, junr, minister ; Mr. Mort, Thomas Walworke, elders.

Gorton : Mr. Leigh, minister ; Thomas Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Stretford : Mr. Richardson, minister ; no elder.

Salford : No minister ; William Higinbothom, John Cleaton, elders.

Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Flixton,
Ellenbroocke : } No minister ; no elder.

4.—Mr. Harison gave an account from the Provintiall by delivering an order of the said assembly concerneinge the matter of personall instruccon; and that a generall meeteinge of all the ministers within this county is appointed to bee at Preston, 21° July next, to resolve upon a course for putinge the said resolucon for personal instruction into practice in the severall congregations within this county.

5.—This classe beinge desired to send twoe ministers to preach the exercise at Kirkam the 3° Tuesday in June, according to an order of the Provintiall Assembly made at Blackburne, and since renewed at Preston; Mr. Walton and Mr. Walker were desired by the classe to preach at the said exercise.

6.—Mr. Allen, Nicholas Mosley, Esq., and other gentlemen, came againe to the classe. The matter of accomodacon was proposed between them and the classe. They desired liberty to choose some persons for their part that were not within the classe, w^ch^ was consented into by the classe. The persons nominated by them were Mr. Allen, Mr. Clayton, Mr. Lightfoote, ministers; Mr. Nicholas Mosley, Mr. Mosley of Collihurst, and Mr. Nathaniel Robinson,[1] gentlemen. By the classe were nominated Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Angier, Mr. Harison, ministers; Mr. Hyde, Capt. Ashton, Mr. Wickins, ruleinge elders, and the tyme and place of meeteinge was by mutuall consent to bee agreed on when Mr. Heyricke should (by the providence of God) be returned from London.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Stretford the fourth Tuesday in July next.

8.—Mr. Edward Richardson, Bachalor in Arts, aged about 24

[1] Nathaniel Robinson, son and heir of Robert Robinson, of Mobberley, Cheshire. (*Manchester Court Leet Records*, iv. 263; see also Earwaker, *East Cheshire*, ii. 353.) His will was proved at Chester, 1670.

yeares, tendred himselfe to ordinacon. His testimonialls being called for, and hee had them not, was put on to send for them & to bring them in at the next classe. He was examined in Greeke, Logicke, Phisicks, Ethicks, Metaphisicks, and soe farr approved. He had his question given him to bring his posicon upon the next classe—*an sola scriptura sit summa Judex omnium controversium fidei.* Affir. def.

Mr. Walton to preach next classe.

Mr. Harrison moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the 2° Tuesday in June next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 137° MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 12°, 1658.

1.—Mr. Newcome preached before the classe for Mr. Walton.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, Mr. Browne, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Capt. Sandiford, elders.

Denton: No minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Salford: No minister; Mr. Ouldfield, William Higinbothom, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuell Tayler, James Travis, elders.

Chourlton, Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshua Taylor, elders.

Ringley: No. minister; Robt. Mort, Peter Seddon, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Didsbury, Flixton, Prestwich, Ellenbroocke: No minister; no elder.

4.—Both Mr. Angiers sent in their excuse for non-appearance w^ch^ was allowed by the classe.

5.—And it was agreed that the ministers within this classe should, upon occasion of their just absence at any tyme, send in their excuse for their non-appearance at the classe, or else to bee accounted faultie for such absence, and to have such penalty (by being appointed to preach a course more, or the like), as shall bee judged fitt by the classe.

6.—It was agreed by the classe that because of the generall meeteinge of the ministers of this province w^ch^ is appointed to bee at Preston, July 21° next, about the matter of personall instruction, that the proceedings of the ministers of the classe bee suspended till that meeteinge bee past.

7.—Mr. Richardson brought in his testimoniall of his faire call to Stretford, signed by the people there. Hee likewise brought in his thesis and mainteyned a dispute upon the question that was given him the last classe. Hath been examined in Divinity Ecclesiasticall history, Cronologie, and was approved, and his Instrument was granted to bee affixt on the Church doore at Stretford accordinge to order, and to bee returned the next classe.

8.—Agreed that the exercise that was appointed to bee at Stretford the 4^th^ Tuesday in July, bee at Flixton the third Tuesday in July, because the former exercise appointed for Flixton was occasionally prevented.

Mr. Walton to preach next classe.

Mr. Leigh moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2º Tuesday in July.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 138º MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 13º, 1658.

1.—Mr. Bagshawe preached before the classe for Mr. Walton.

2.—Mr. Leigh, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderships deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Meare, Mr. Buxton, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Robert Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, senr, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robert Stansfield, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Samuel Scolfield, James Lees, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Edge, elders.

Salford: Mr. Browne, minister; no elder.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junior, minister; Robert Mort, Peter Seddon, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Esq., William Birtinshawe, elders.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Ellenbroocke; } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Walker sent in his excuse for non-appearance, w^{ch} was allowed by the classe.

5.—Mr. Richardson to bee ordeyned at Stretford the 28th day of July instant; Mr. Jones to preach, Mr. Newcome to give the exhortacon and to pray at the imposicon of hands.

6.—The classe haveing notice that the papers w^{ch} have passed betweene this classe & Mr. Allen & others were printed with a preface unto them, it was ordered that Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Angier, senior, Mr. Harison, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Leigh, Mr. Jones, Mr. Walker, ministers; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Capt^{t} Ashton, Mr. Strangwaies, Mr. Wickens, Mr. Byrom, Mr. Meare, Mr. Buxton, ruleing elders, they or any five of them, three being ministers, bee a committee to take this matter into consideration, and to meete as they judge fit & see occasion to proceed in this busines, and to make report of their proceedinges to the next classe.

7.—Agreed that the exercise that should have beene at Flixton the third Tuesday of this instant July bee deferred till the third Tuesday in August, because there is a thanksgiveing day appointed by authoritie to bee the very day after the day appointed aforesaid, and the moderator is to give Mr. Woolmere notice of this present order.

8.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Didsbury the third Tuesday in September next.

Mr. Leigh moderator.

Mr. Jackson to preach next classe.

Next classe to bee the 2^{o} Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

ORDINATION BY THE PRESBYTERS OF THE FIRST CLASSIS IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER OF MR. EDWARD RICHARDSON, EXPECTANT, AT STRETFORD, THE 27th DAY OF JULY, ANNO 1658.

Preparacon unto the said ordinacon accordinge to the ordinance being made, & just satisfaction being given to the classe of his age, degree in the universitie, good life and free call to the congregation, certificates of some of wch things remaine upon the file; as alsoe upon examinacon hee being approved for his abilities and fitness for the worke, all wch appeares in the three precedent classicall meetinges—upon the 27 day of July aforesaid, being appointed a fast for this present busines at Stretford: Mr. Jackson began with prayer, Mr. Jones preached, Mr. Leigh went on with prayer, Master Newcome propounded the questions to the said Mr. Richardson. Hee did before the congregacon make publicke confession of his faith, and made such declaracon as was requisite in all things soe propounded accordinge to the ordinance: with earnest prayer hee was solemnely set apart to the worke of the ministry by imposicon of the hands of the Presbyters. Exhortacon was given to him and to the people touching their mutuall duties by the aforesaid Mr. Newcome according to the appointmtt of the classis; and after hee had his testimonialls given him of such his ordinacon, according to the usuall forme, viz:—

Whereas Mr. Edw. Richardson, aged about 24 yeares, hath . . . in the Church of Stretford . . . apud Stretford, July 27, 1658.

Signed by William Leigh, moderator, Edmund Jones,
Henry Newcome, James Jackson,
Robert Constantyne, Robert Browne.

The 139° MEETEINGE at Manchester, August 10°, 1658.

1.—Mr. Illingworth preached before the classe for Mr. Jackson.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, for Mr. Leigh, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Lees, an elder.

Denton: No minister; Capt. Booth, Robert Collier, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, Tho. Toping, Raphe Darbishire, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; William Smith, Tho. Fildes, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Tho. Berron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Salford: No minister; William Higinbothom, an elder.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^r^, minister; Peter Seddon, Thomas Walworth, elders.

Didsbury, Flixton, Prestwich: } No minister; no elder.

4.—William Tonge approved for a ruleing elder in the congregation at Ellenbroocke.

5.—Mr. Holland, Mr. Walker to preach at the exercise at Didsbury the 29 in September next.

6.—Mr. Angier, senior, absent from the classe because gone a journey towards London.

7.—Mr. Joshuah Stopford, Bachalor of Arts, aged about 24 yeares, presented himselfe to ordinacon, examined before the classe in Greeke, Hebrewe, Logicke, Ethicks, Phisicks, & Metaphisicks, and thus farr approved: his question given him to bring his posicon upon the next classe—*an datur perfectio in hac vita.* Neg. deff. Had an instrument given him to bee affixt on the Church doore at Manchester.

8.—Mr. Constantyne to preach at the ordinacon, Mr. Heyricke to give the exhortacon and to pray at the imposicon of hands.

9.—The comittee appointed by the last classe to take into consideration the business of the papers lately printed as beforesaid, gave an account to this present classe of their proceedings, viz^{t}: That upon their meeteinge they aggreed to write a letter to Mr. Allen, w^{ch} was in these words directed:

To his *Reverend Brother Mr. Allen, minister of Prestwich these:*

Sir,

At our classicall meeteinge in May last, yourselfe & others with you, did agree with us upon a meeteinge in order to an accomodacon: the tyme for it was referred by mutuall consent till Mr. Heyrick's returne from London, yourselves promisinge upon his returne, the first classe after, to appoint some to attend the classe for the appointing the tyme & place for the said meeteinge; you were, some of you, accordinge to the said agreem^{tt}, expected this day, but instead of that wee meete with-all the papers printed & a preface annexed to them: This is to desire you that you would be pleased, in the behalfe of yourselves & the rest, to certifie us under your hand whether yourselfe & the rest doe owne the printing of the papers, with the preface. This I was comanded by the classe to send to you and to desire your speedie answeare.

Bee pleased to direct your answer to Mr. Heyricke.

Your respective Bro^{r},

William Leigh, moderator.

July 13th, 1658.

10.—This letter was the next day delivered to Mr. Allen. Hee promised to attend in person on Mr. Heyricke the next day after, w^{ch} hee accordingly did. The account of w^{ch} & their further answeares to the letter is thus given in under Mr. Heyrick's hand.

11.—Mr. Allen came to Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Mosley of Ancoates accompanieing him. Hee said concerneing the printing of the papers & the preface, hee knew nothing of them, & therefore hee brought Mr. Mosley who could give the account; Mr. Heyricke desired the answeare in writing, they both promised they would speak with the rest of the subscribers, & they would within a fortnight give theire answeare in writeinge. Within the time prefixed Mr Allen came to Mr. Heyricke, told him hee had met with them that had subscribed the paper, & they denyed that hee should give any answeare in writeing, saying the classe would but take advantage by it, and that now hee must owne both the paper and the preface, that there might bee no breach amongst themselves.

Richard Heyricke.

12.—Agreed by the present classe that the comittee appointed by the last classe for consideration of this foresaid business, bee in like manner continued till the next classe.

13.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ringley the third Tuesday in October next.

Mr. Jackson to preach the next classe.

Mr. Harison moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 140th MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 14th, 1658.

1.—Mr. Jackson preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, minister; Mr. Meare, Mr. Buxton, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt Ashton, Edmund Heywood, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantyne, minister; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Alexander Heron, William Birtinshawe, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; Mr. Smith, Robert Eckersley, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; Mr. Robert Mort, an elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Denton, Prestwich, Flixton, Didsbury: No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Angier, senr, absent because not returned from his journey.

5.—Mr. Joshuah Stopford brought in his testimoniall of his diligence in his studies in Mag. Coll., Oxon, brought in also his instrument affixed & subscribed, according to order; mainteyned

a dispute on this question—*an datur perfectio in hac vita:* was examined in Divinity, Cronology, ecclesiasticall historie, & approved.

6.—Mr. Joshuah Stopford to bee ordeyned at Manchester Thursday the three and twentieth instant, w^ch^ day is to bee kept a day for this busines, together in respect of the season of soe much raine in the tyme of harvest, as alsoe in regard of the sicknes that prevails much in many places amongst us. Mr. Newcome & Mr. Harison appointed to pray.

7.—Mr. Allen and others came to the classe this day. They desired, being at the doore, that two ministers might bee sent out to them from the classe to speake with them. The classe appointed Mr. Harison & Mr. Newcome to goe forth. Mr. Allen desired to know of the classe whether they are willing to have the matter of accomodation to goe forward or no, for they had more of their companie in towne, whom, unles the matter might bee proceeded in, they should not send for them. The ministers returned with their proposall to the classe, & it was agreed that this answere should bee returned them from the classe. That the classe were willing still, and desireous of an accomodacon if it might bee, and that it would appeare if there were any present obstruccon, it was not from anything in the classe, but from their injurious printinge of the papers; w^ch^ being done the classe must be forced first to vindicate themselves in print in answeare to what was done against them, and yet that, when that was done, they should be willinge if they pleased to proceede to the accomodation. This answere was sent & in substance delivered to Mr. Allen & the others that were with him, by the aforenamed ministers, w^ch^ Mr. Allen seemed to accept well of, and said it was very reasonable as the classe proposed & soe they departed.

8.—Mr. Holland & Mr. Richardson absent, and no excuse given for their excuse.

9.—Delegated from Manchester to attend the Provintiall Assembly at Preston the 6^th^ day of October next:

Mr. Newcome, Mr. Jones, & Mr. Jackson, } ministers.

Captaine Sandiford, Mr. Richard Meare, Thomas Rogers. William Tonge, Capt Seddon, Thomas Edge, } ruleing elders.

10.—Agreed that the same comittee w^ch^ was continued the last classe, bee continued in like manner as before untill the next classe.

11.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Blakeley the third Tuesday in November next.

Mr. Stopford to preach next classe.

Mr. Constantine moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the 2^o^ Tuesday in October next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

ORDINATION BY THE PRESBYTERS OF THE FIRST CLASSIS IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER OF MR. JOSHUAH STOPFORD, EXPECTANT, AT MANCHESTER, ON THURSDAY, THE 23th SEPTEMBER, 1658.

Preparation to the said ordination accordinge to the ordinance being made, and just satisfaccon being given to the classe for his age, degree in the university, good life and free call to the congregation of Manchester to bee assistant to the ministers there as morneing lecturer; for some of w^ch^ things certificates remaine in the classe upon the file, other things were knowne by good evidence otherwise to the classe. As alsoe upon examination hee beinge approved for his abilities and fitnes for the worke of the ministry; all w^ch^ appeares in the records for the twoe precedent classicall dayes.

Upon the 23^rd^ of September aforesaid, being appointed a fast for this present busines, espetionlly at Manchester, Mr. Newcome began with prayer, Mr. Constantine preached, Mr. Harison prayed after, Mr. Heyricke propounded the questions in that case provided, to the said Mr. Stopford. Hee did before the congregation make publicke confession of his faith, and made such declaracon as was requisite in all things so propounded according to the ordinance. With earnest prayer, performed by the said Mr. Heyricke, hee was solemnly set apart to the worke of the ministry by the imposition of the hands of the Presbyters. Exhortacon was after given him by the aforesaid Mr. Heyricke, and the whole action in publicke solemnely concluded.

And after hee had his testimoniall given him of such, his admission according to the usuall forme, viz^t^:—

Whereas Mr. Joshuah Stopford, aged about . . . in the Church of Manchester, etc. . . . apud Manchester, Sept. 23, 1658.

Signed by Richard Heyricke, moderator,

Henry Newcome,	James Jackson,
William Leigh,	William Coleborne,
Edmund Jones,	John Angier, junior.

The 141st MEETEINGE at Manchester, Novr. 9th 1658.

1.—Mr. Stopford preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Constantine, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, minister; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Meare, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Byrom, Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt Ashton, Robert Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, senr, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robert Turner, elders.

Salford: Mr. Browne, minister; William Higinbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Newton, Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leighe gone from home, his child very sicke; Alexander Heron, Robert Hulme, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Samuell Scolfield, John Lees, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland absent, his child being sicke; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister, sent his excuse, & was excepted [accepted]; Mr. Smith, Raphe Darbishire, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junior, minister; Peter Seddon, junior, an elder.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton: No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that if any publicke day of fastinge or thanksgiveinge enjoined by authority should happen to bee on the day whereupon the classe doth usually meete, or any day in the same week, whereby the ministers must necessarily bee taken up in their preparacons for the worke of the said publicke dayes, soe that they cannot with any convenience attend the classical meeteinge upon the usuall daye when it soe falls out, the classe therefore orders it that in such case, the classicall day shall bee from tyme to tyme the Tuesday in the weeke after. And without any further notice it shall bee accounted of as the day appointed for the said meeteinge.

5.—Mr. Newcome gave an account of the Provinciall Assembly. The appearance was but slender. Some consultations were about more effectual meanes to bee used by the assembly to quicken the severall classes that are deficient, both in their monethly meeteings in their owne classe, and to send their delegates to the Province more duely then formerly they have done.

6.—Mr. Dury's papers for accomodateinge the differences in the Protestant Churches recomended by him to the consideration of the Assembly, was referred to a committee of ministers, to meete at Chorley, Nov. 3°, to make returne to Mr. Dury, or the delegates of the Assembly, according to their apprehentions of the matter.[1]

[1] John Dury, the well known ubiquitously-active Scotch divine. For an account of him see the Appendix and the *Dictionary of National Biography*. The whole of his life was devoted to the work of bringing to an end the unhappy differences between the Protestant Churches. In this present case, his aim was apparently to find some common ground for Independent and Presbyterian, and the time was not at all unfavourable for such schemes. Had the Restoration not taken place, it is probable that we should have seen some such process of either accommodation or amalgamation carried out. In this classis, in the following year, the work was actually begun. At the instigation of the Independents, a meeting was held at the College, July 13, 1659, and several heads of accommodation agreed upon. The original draft of these is preserved in the Cross Street *MSS.*, and will be found printed as an Appendix to the volume. What was done in a similar way in other counties has yet to be investigated. In Lancashire the process was stopped by the rising of Sir George Booth, entailing as it did a temporary re-abasement of Presbyterianism. It needed a generation and more of Restoration persecution to bring the Dissenting Churches to the height of wisdom and tolerance which they held in these years, 1658-9.

7.—The matter of personall teachinge was againe taken into consideracon, and this was the resolution of the ministers about it.

At Preston, Oct. 6th, 1658:

The resolution for personall teachinge passed & subscribed by us, with other ministers of this county, at Preston, October 6, 1657, & since by others, being in all 35 in number, and wch was then commended to all the rest of the brethren of the ministry within this province for their resolucon upon it, to bee comunicated to their brethren the ministers that have subscribed it, that should bee at the Provinciall Assembly followinge: And the said resolution haveinge beene againe comended for the same purpose by the ministers of the provintiall at Preston, May 5, 1658: wee that subscribe hereunto thinke it meete, and accordingly purpose (as the Lord shall assist) to proceed to the practice of the said personall teachinge, each in our severall charges, and to signifie to the rest of our brethren, both those whose concurrence herein wee are certified of & others whose resolution wee have not yet received, this our purpose, and that wee hope their judgments will lead them to the same, either (as it is by us resolved to bee) in duty, or upon some other Christian consideration.

Isaac Ambrose,	Edward Gee,	Wm. Brownsword,
John Angier,	Henry Newcome,	Edmund Jones,
William Cole,	Thos. Pyke,	James Jackson,
		Thomas Crompton.

8.—Next Provinciall Assembly to bee at Preston the 1st Wednesday in May next, and the 4th Classe is to provide to preach.

9.—Twoe ministers out of this classe to preache at Kirkham the day before the Provinciall meeteinge.

10.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Newton the third Wednesday in December next.

11.—Agreed also that an exercise bee at Denton the 3d Wednesday in January next.

12.—Mr. Harison brought in an answere to the twoe later papers given in to the classe, & since published by the gentlemen; w^ch^ answere soe farr as it was read was approved of by the classe, and agreed when perfected to bee printed.

Next classe to bee Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Mr. Walker to preach the classe Dec. 14th.

Mr. Constantine moderator next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 142° MEETINGE at Manchester, Nov. 23^th^, 1658.

1.—The moderator began with prayer.

2.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:—

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, minister; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Meare, Mr. Buxton, Mr. Wollen, Mr. Byrom, rulinge elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Robt. Leech, Lawrance Wright, ruleing elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, sen^r^, minister; Robert Turner, Peter Ashton, ruleing elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Samuell Scolfield, John Lees, ruleing elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, ruleing elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Mr. Strangwaies, Wim. Birtinshawe, ruleing elders.

Salford: No minister; Wim. Higginbothom, John Ouldfield, ruleing elders.

From other congregations no minister nor elder at this tyme.

3.—Mr. Harison read over the remainder of the answer prepared to the papers w^ch^ are printed by the gentlemen, w^ch^ (together with the preface & the narrative, they being first read

likewise at this meeteinge), was appointed by this classe, and voted to bee sent to the presse.

The next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in the next moneth.

Mr. ——— moderator.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 143° MEETEINGE at Manchester, Dec. 14th, 1658.

1.—Mr. Leigh preached before the classe for Mr. Walker.

2.—Mr. Constantine, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Lawrence Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capt. Booth, Robert Stansfield, ruleinge elders.

Salford: Mr. Browne, minister; Wim. Higinbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; James Lees, Francis Clegg, ruleing elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leighe, minister; Wim. Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, ruleing elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker absent, but his excuse sent in & accepted; Tho. Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister, absent by reason of sicknes; John Travis, Samuel Taylor, ruleing elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; Mr. Mort, Peter Seddon, ruleing elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Edge, ruleing elders.

Noe delegation from Ellenbroocke; M. Coleburne sent in his excuse, w^{ch} was accepted.

4.—Whereas twoe cases were brought in from the eldershipp of Manchester for the advice and determination of the classe therein—the one touching the admission of some persons to the Sacrament, the other touching the suspention of one that hath been scandalous in that congregation. After some debate upon them in the classe, the matter was referred to a comittee, w^{ch} was to meete upon the riseing of the classe; w^{ch} was to consider of the things, and to advise the eldershipp of Manchester in the cases proposed as they might find most expedient.

5.—The comittee was to bee of all the ministers, or as many as could well attend; and of Mr. Buxton, Mr. Byrom, Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Higinbothom, Capt. Booth, Samuell Taylor, Joshuah Taylor, Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, Robert Stansfield, or any 3 of them ruleinge elders.

6.—A sumons for Henry Mason, of Chourlton, butcher, for scandalizeing Mr. Jackson, minister there, to appeare to answere the complaint made ag^{tt} him in this case the next classe.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Stretford the third Wednesday in Febr. next.

Mr. Jones to preach next classe.

Mr Walker moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2^{o} Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 144 MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 11°, 165$\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Jones preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Buxton, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Robert Lees, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; John Gee, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland absent by sicknes; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; Mr. Smith, Henry Smith, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Mr. Strangwayes, Alexander Smith, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; Thomas Walworth, an elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton elders.

Salford: Mr. Browne, minister; William Higinbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton: No minister; no elder.

4.—Henry Mason appeared according to the summons of the

last classe, and upon the entrance on the matter in debate between Mr. Jackson & him, the classe thought fitt to referr it to a committee to hear the matter more privately, and, if they could, to take up the business, or else to prepare it for the next classe, & then to make report of it. Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Harison, Mr. Angier, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Buxton, & Mr. Byrom to bee of the comittee, and they to meete upon it upon the riseing of the classe.

5.—Agreed that whereas the fast enjoyned by authority to seeke God for his direction & blesseinge upon the Parliament to bee assembled was not kept in these parts on Dec. 29th, the day appointed, because the proclamacon came not till after the day to our respective places, this classe doth therefore appoint Wednesday, the 19° instant, a day of solemne fasting throughout the bounds of this classe for that very purpose; and the exercise that was appointed for Denton the same day to bee deferred till the 3rd Wednesday in February next.

Agreed likewise that the exercise that was appointed for Stretford the 3d Wednesday in February to bee put off till the 3d Wednesday in March next.

6.—Mr. Joseph Birch mentioned his desire to this classe to bee ordeyned by them, being called to the worke of the ministry at Ashley in Cheshire, but the classe, upon consultation had upon the busines, referred the matter to Mr. Newcome, that hee should write to some of the classis in Cheshire that they should contrive a way either for his ordination amongst them, or els that they signifie there freedome & desire for his ordination here.

7.—The epistle dedicative, the epistle to the reader, the answere to the gentlemen's printed preface, were read and approved of by the classe and referred to Mr. Harison and Mr. Newcome to make such alteration as they saw good in them, and soe to have them prefaced with the narrative to the papers that were to bee printed.

8.—Agreed that either Mr. Heyricke or Mr. Harrison should subscribe the epistle dedicatorie as moderator.

Mr. Constantyne to preach next classe.
Mr. Walker moderator next classe.
Next classe the 2° Tuesday in Feb. next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 145th MEETEINGE at Manchester, Feb. 8°, $165\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Constantine preached accordinge to order.
2.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begun with prayer.
3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Byrom, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Edmund Heywood, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Collier, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland absent by sicknes; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Samuell Scolfield, an elder.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robert Hulme, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coulburne, minister; Mr. Smith, Raphe Darbishire, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; Robt. Mort, an elder.

Salford: No minister; Wim. Higinbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Stretford: } No minister; no elder.

4.—The committee appointed by the classe for that purpose gave an account concerneinge the difference betwixt Mr. Jackson & Henry Mason, by w^ch^ it appears that Mr. Jackson is cleare from the matter charged against him, & hee & Henry Mason were by the said comittee reconciled, w^ch^ was well approved of by the present classe.

5.—There was notice taken of a passage in one of Dr. Sanderson's [1] bookes reflecting upon the Presbiteriall government as it is settled in this county, and a vindication on the behalfe of the government in that respect being drawen up & read in the classe, was appointed & agreed that it should bee printed in the end of the classes answere to the preface of the papers printed by the gentlemen as aforesaid.

6.—Mr. Browne declareinge his intention to administer the Sacrament in the congregation of Salford, w^ch^ the elders there & severall of the people appeare unsatisfied in, the classe thought fitt that the busines bee referred to a comittee—Mr. Heyricke,

[1] The well-known Dr. Robert Sanderson (160$\frac{9}{7}$–166$\frac{2}{3}$), who suffered so much during these times, but was made Bishop of Lincoln shortly after the Restoration. (See Walker's *Sufferings of the Clergy*, ii. 104; Wood, etc.)

According to the command of the classis, this aspersion of Sanderson's was answered in the papers printed by them in "Censures of the Church." The answer occurs in "the animadversion upon the preface," and is by Newcome, who refers to it in these words: "This passage is in his preface to his fourteen sermons, printed an° 1657. In his eighteenth paragraph, where he would persuade the world much that the Presbyterians . . . should be the great promoters of the Roman interest among us . . . he confirms this with a particular reference to our county in these words: 'It hath been observed by some . . . that in those counties (Lancashire for one) where there are the most and the most rigid Presbyterians, there are also the most and the most zealous Roman Catholics.'" In his short answer Newcome treats the Doctor with great respect.

Mr. Newcome, Mr. Angier, Mr. Harison, Mr. Jones, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Walker, ministers; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Mr. Ashton, Mr. Wim. Booth, Mr. Wickins, Mr. Byrom, Mr. Lancashire, & Robert Leech, ruleing elders; five of each to bee of the quorum, and in case of want of a sufficient number of the ruleing elders to make up the quorum mentioned, any of the ruleing elders in the congregation of Manchester are to be called on for a supply of such defect, and the committee to meete at Mr. Higinbothom's house in Salford at ten of the clocke on Tuesday the 22º instant, who are to endeavoure to compose the said difference if they can, and to make report of their proceedings to the next classe, and the Sacrament is to bee deferred still in that congregacon till the classe shall have further agreed of a course therein upon the report of the said committee at their next meeteinge.

7.—Mr. Joseph Birch brought in certificate from the ministers in Cheshire signifieinge their desire to have him to proceede to ordination in this classe.

8.—Mr. Joseph Birch, Bachalor of Arts, aged about 23 yeares, addressed himselfe to ordinacon, was examined in logicke, Ethicks, Phisicks, Metaphisicks, & in Greeke, & thus farr approved of by the classe; had an instrumtt given him directed to the congregacon, & to bee affixed on the chappell dore at Ashley in Cheshire; his question to bring his posicon on the next classe—*an infantes sint baptizandi.* He holdes it the affirm. Mr. Stopford, Mr. Coleburne, Mr. Angier, jun., to mainteine the dispute.

9.—Agreed that no yong minister shall preach within the bounds of this classe till they have preached before the classe first, and bee approved by the classe soe to preach as probationers to the ministry; as alsoe that everyone that ordinarily tenders himselfe to ordinacon to this classe shall preach before the classe on a text given him by the classe as a part of his exercise for his approbacon by them. And soe Mr. Birch at present to preach the next classe on John the 3 & 3.

10.—Mr. Richardson absent, & no excuse sent in by him.

11.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ellenbrooke the third Wednesday in Aprill next.

Mr. Walker moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the 2° Tuesday in March next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 146th MEETEINGE at Manchester, March 8th, 165$\frac{8}{9}$.

1.—Mr. Birch preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Walker, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, Mr. Stopford, ministers; Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Buxton, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Turner, Robt. Collier, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Mr. Isaac Dehowe, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Mr. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Salford: No minister; Wim. Higinbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coulborne, minister; Mr. Smith, Wim. Tonge, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshua Taylor, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; Peter Seddon, junr, an elder.

Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Angier gave an account to the classe of the meetinge of the comittee touching Mr. Browne and the people of Salford, wch was that the said committee could not accomodate the said difference betweene them, neither doe they apprehend any likely hopes of their agreeing there, & soe upon the motion from the said committee it was agreed by the present classe that the administracon of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the congregation of Salford bee for the present still deferred, and the members thereto belonginge to have their liberty as formerly to partake in the congregation at Manchester.

5.—Mr. Joseph Birch brought in a testimoniall dated the 12° September, 1657, of beinge Bachalor of Arts of Caius Colledge in Cambridge; another testimoniall from Manchester of his good life and conversacon, and alsoe another testimoniall under the hand of Thomas Breerton of Ashley, Esq., shewing his desire to have him to bee his chaplin, and to proceed to ordination at Manchester. Hee mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an infantes sint baptizandi;* was examined in Divinitie, cronologie, and approved.

6.—Mr. Joseph Birch to bee ordeyned at Manchester, Wednesday, the thirtieth of March instant; Mr. Angier, senr, to preach; Mr. Harison to give the exhortacon, and to pray at the imposicon of hands; Mr. Walker & Mr. Constantine to pray before and after the sermon.

7.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Chourlton the third Wednesday in May next.

Mr. Richardson to preach next classe.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

S S

ORDINATION BY THE PRESBYTERS OF THE FIRST CLASSIS IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER, OF MR. JOSEPH BIRCH, EXPECTANT, AT MANCHESTER, ON WEDNESDAY, THE THIRTIETH OF MARCH, 1659.

Preparation unto the said ordination accordinge to the ordinance in that behalfe, directinge being made and just satisfaccon beinge given to the classe of the age of the said Mr. Joseph Birch, his degrees in the university, good life & call to the ministry of the gospell at the Chappell at Ashley, in the county of Chester, by certificates remaininge upon the file and good evidence otherwise made to the classe of the premisses ; as alsoe hee beinge approved for his abilities and fitnes for the worke after due examination, which appears in the twoe precedent classicall meeteings—upon the thirtieth day of March aforesaid, it beinge appointed a day of solemne fasting for this busines at Manchester, Mr. Newcome, instead of Mr. Walker, begun with prayer ; Mr. Angier the elder preached ; Mr. Constantine prayed after, Mr. Harison propounded the questions to the said Mr. Birch, and hee did before the congregation make publicke confession of his faith, and such declaration as was required in all things so propounded accordinge to the ordinances aforesaid. With earnest prayer hee was solemnely set apart to the worke of the ministry by imposicon of the hands of the Presbyters. Exhortacon was given to him touchinge his duty by the said Master Harison, and the action ended with prayer, & the congregation dismissed.

Hee had his testimoniall given him of such his ordination according to the usuall forme, viz. :—

Whereas Mr. Joseph Birch, aged about 24 yeares . . . hath, etc. . .

Apud Manchester, March 30, 1659.

Which was subscribed by

Richard Heyricke, moderator, Henry Newcome,
John Angier, Robert Constantine.
John Harison.

The 147° MEETEINGE, April 12°, 1659.

1.—Mr. Richardson preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Meare, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier sent his excuse, and it was approved of; Robt. Collier, Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capᵗᵗ Sandiford, Robt. Lees, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fyldes, William Smith, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker sent his [excuse] and it was approved of; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; Mr. Smith, Thomas Topinge, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robert Hulme, elders.

Salford: Mr. Browne, minister; Wim. Higginbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junʳ, minister, excused, being absent; Thomas Walworth, an elder.

Didsbury, Prestwich, Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

4.—The classe, takeinge notice of the order of the last classe touchinge Salford, & understandinge that Mr. Booth[1] was expected shortly to come over, whereby it is hoped the differences of that congregacon might be accomodated, ordered that Mr. Browne shall not goe on to administer the sacram^tt^ till at the next meeteinge the classe might give further advice therein.

Delegates from Manchester to attend the Provinciall Assembly at Preston the first Wednesday May next:

Mr. Angier, senior, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Coleburne,	ministers.	Mr. Byrom, Thomas Topinge,	ruleinge elders.
		Mr. Hyde, Sam^l^ Scolfield, Robert Brabun, Robt. Hulme,	elders delegated alsoe, but appeared not.

6.—Agreed that Mr. Newcome & Mr. Coleburne to preach at the exercise in the Fyld cuntrie.

7.—Agreed by the classe that every minister belonginge to this classe shall before the next meetinge put in execucon the busines of personall instruccion accordinge to the former resolucons of this classe, each minister takeinge that course therein as may (by the advice of the respective eldershipp) best suit the particular condicon of his congregation.

8.—Ordred that those places where eldershipps are not formed should make some speedie endeavoures for election of elders, and where the eldershipps are growne weake by the death of some elders, and the infirmity of others by reason of age, they are to consider of makeinge further election of elders for a supply in those eldershipps, and account to bee given of such proceedings at the next classe.

[1] Robert Booth, son of Humphrey, the founder of Salford Chapel; baptised 2nd July, 1626. 1660, Puisne Justice of Common Pleas. 1668, Sir Robert Booth. 1669, appointed Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas in Ireland. 1679, Chief Justice of King's Bench. Will dated 2nd August, 1684. These details are taken from the papers of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Tallent-Bateman in the *City News* "Notes and Queries," vol. v. p. 260 *seq.* At this time Booth was in Ireland.

9.—Agreed that the exercise that should have beene at Chourlton bee at Flixton, the fourth Wednesday in May next.

10.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Gorton the third Wednesday in June next.

Mr. Leigh to preach next classe.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 148th MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 10th, 1659.

1.—Mr. Walker preached before the classe for Mr. Leigh.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers ; Mr. Byrom, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : Mr. Harison, minister ; Capt. Ashton, Robt. Leech, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, senr, minister ; William Booth, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham : Mr. Constantine, minister ; Samuell Scolfield, James Lees, elders.

Eccles : Mr. Jones, minister ; Thomas Fylds, Thomas Edge, elders.

Gorton : Mr. Leigh, minister ; Mr. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton : Mr. Walker, minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; Thomas Smith, Tho. Topinge, elders.

Salford: Mr. Browne, minister; William Hegginbothom, an elder.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed by the classe that because Mr. Booth is not yet come Mr. Browne shall forbeare to administer the sacrament of the Lords supper in the congregation of Salford untill the next classe, in hope that Mr. Booth may come before that tyme; & Mr. William Higinbothom is desired by the classe to bring in to the next classe all such things as they have to excepte against Mr. Browne, his proceedinge there as minister of that congregation, that the classe may bee fully informed on both sides to make their determination in the case at that tyme.

5.—Mr. Angier, sen^{r}, gave an account from the Provintiall Assembly at Preston, w^{ch} was held the last Wednesday.

6.—Mr. Newcome & Mr. Coleburne preached at Kirkham the day before, accordinge to the order of the classe.

7.—The appearance of the assemblie was prettie full. Some things were transacted about the provintiall approbation of Mr. Durye's papers [concerning accommodation]—about a scandalous minister, one Mr. Lawrence, who was complained of by the people of Cockerham, and sumons was granted forth for his appeareance and heareinge the busines at the next assembly—a question about the validity of one's ordination to bee Deacon was discussed: whether it was sufficient to the exercise of the whole office of a minister, and by the major vote carried in the negative, wherein this classe seemed unsatisfied, and concluded to send their thoughts about it to the next assembly. An other question about the validity or nullity of baptisme administred by an unordained man was proposed, and referred to the severall

classes, that their respective delegates may come prepared to discuss it at the next assembly.

8.—The next assembly to bee at Preston the first Wednesday in October; the first classe to provide a preacher.

9.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ashton-under-lyne the 3rd Wednesday in July next.

Mr. Harison to preach the next classe.

Mr. Heyricke moderator next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in June.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 149th MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 14, 1659.

1.—Mr. Sandiford preached before the classe for Mr. Harison.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator, begunne with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robert Stansfield, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Captain Sandiford, Robt. Lees, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker absent; his excuse referred to make next classe; Tho. Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun., minister; Capt. Seddon, Mr. Robt. Mort, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshua Taylor, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine absent, but excuse sent in & admitted by the classe; Jno. Lees, James Lees, elders.

Salford: Mr. Browne absent, his excuse accepted; William Higginbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; John Travis, an elder.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; Raphe Darbishire, William Tonge, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr Browne being called of [sent word] that hee could not attend this classe, desired Mr. Stopford to move the classe in his behalfe that they would take off their order by w^{ch} hee is at present prohibited the administracon of the Sacrament at Salford, both because manie of the people presse him to it, & Mr. Booth hath comanded him (as he saith) to administer it.

The classe, because of his being absent, thought not fitt to proceed in that busines according to the order of the last classe to heare what the elders of Salford could say against his setling there, nor further to enquire into the busines at this tyme, but that matters touching Salford should stand as they did till the next classe, and that notice bee given to Mr. Browne that hee forbeare the administracon of the Lords Supper in that congregacon till the next classe.

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Manchester the third Wednesday in August next.

Mr. Holbroocke to preach next classe.

Mr. Angier, sen^{r}, minister next classe.

Next classe the 2^{o} Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 150th MEETEINGE at Manchester, 15 July, 1659.

1.—Mr. Stopford, junior, preached before the classe.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, for Mr. Angier, senr, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Buxton, Mr. Lancashire, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt Ashton, Edmund Heawood, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., John Johnson, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister, absent, his excuse allowed; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones absent, his excuse sent in, allowed of; Thomas Fylds, William Smith, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Mr. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton, Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coleburne, minister; Mr. Tho. Smith, Tho. Arrowsmith, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshua Tayler, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Salford: No minister; Wm. Higginbothom, John Clayton, elders.

Prestwich, Ringley, Flixton, Didsbury: No minister; no elder.

4.—John Johnson, chosen an elder for Denton, was approved of by this classe.

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Chourlton the third Wednesday in September next.

6.—Upon the reassumeinge of the business touching Mr. Browne & the congregacon of Salford, it was evidenced to the classe that Mr. Browne had notice of the order of the last classe, & that Mr. Browne had notwithstandinge given notice of a sacram^{tt} for the last Sabbath but one in this moneth. It was moved to him by the classe whether hee would forbeare the sacram^{tt} if, upon publicke heareinge of the busines on both sides, the classe should advise soe, or if the classe should nominate some to meete with any hee should referre the matter to, & if it should bee determined by them, that the sacram^{tt} should yet bee deferred. But hee answered hee could not deferre it because hee had given notice of it. Hee was then desired to withdrawe. The classe then ordered that the comittee of Feb. 22° last past that was appointed to heare and determine that busines, should make a more particuler and full report of their judgement in that case to the present classe; w^{ch} was accordingly done; and as it was that Mr. Browne is judged unfitt for the congregation of Salford, and that hee is to bee desired to remove thence, and that upon these grounds:

(1) Because hee came into that place against the consent of severall of the best of the people, of most of the feoffees of the chapel (at least without their privity), and of the elders of the congregation.

(2) Because it is judged that the prophane partie in that towne doth much encrease, & that the religious partie is like to bee under discouragem^{tt} by his continuanc there.

(3) For that some of the people are soe farre unsatisfied with his being there that before they can sit downe under his ministry they have expressed themselves resolved to remove from their dwellings in the said congregacon, as some eminent members there have done alreadie, & chiefly upon this occasion.

(4ly) For that it is evident that Mr. Browne did expressely promise to Mr. Harison, Mr. Angier, & Mr. Newcome, when they agreed to signe his approbacon for that place, that hee would remove thence after a short time if hee could not gaine the affeccons of the party that opposed his settlinge there, & if that the ministers should advise his removeall; w^ch^ is evident by the certificate hereafter inserted under the hands of the foresaid ministers. And upon this promise of his the foresaid ministers subscribed the said approbacon, without w^ch^ they could not have done it. And upon this alsoe the people withdrewe their legall proceedings against him.

The classe approved of and concurred with this advice & judgm^tt^ of the comittee touchinge the weight of these reasons for the desire of Mr. Brown's removeall as the classe then stood. And for the present the classe did further consider of the busines, and takeinge into consideration the grounds of the foresaid report & resolucon, as alsoe that it appeared by a letter from Mr. Samms directed to Mr. Angier that Mr. Browne was intended at the first by Mr. Booth but to supply the present turne for want of a fitter man; w^ch^ confirmed the classe to proceede in their desire for his removeall. Yet out of tendernes to him, & since his father & hee had mentioned to the elders of Salford a referrence of the busines to some chosen by the classe & to some chosen by them, as alsoe because Mr. Browne did assert in the classe that hee had the advice and encouragement of some learned & godly divines and some godly christians to persist in this course touchinge the Sacrament, notwithstandinge the advice & order of the classe to the contrary: it was therefore offered to Mr. Browne that the classe would give such meeteinge to such persons as hee should procure as before mentioned, consisting of twoe ministers & twoe gentlemen on either side. And soe Mr. Heyricke & Mr. Angier, Robert Hyde, Esq., & Capt. Ashton were mentioned on the classis part to meete with the like number of ministers & gentlemen chosen by him, to meete at any time

this weeke or the next before the tyme prefixed for the Sacrament, that they might give them full satisfaction of the grounds of the classes proceedings herein, and why they cannot consent to his proceedinge to a sacrament there, whilst matters thus depend in that congregacon w^ch^ Mr. Browne tooke notice of, and was to returne his answeare as speedily as hee could to the ministers & gentlemen deputed herein by the classe.

The Certificate touchinge Mr. Brown's promise before mentioned.

[The rest of the page is left blank in the *MS.* for the certificate, which, however, the scribe has failed to copy.]

The 151^st^ MEETEINGE at Manchester, August 9°, 1659.

1.—Mr. Holbroocke preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Angier, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Stopford, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capt. Booth, Robt. Collier, elders.

Blakeley: No minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Colborne, minister; Thomas Topinge, Raphe Darbishire.

Salford: No minister; William Higinbothom, an elder.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; no elder.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; no elder.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; no elder.

Prestwich,
Flixton,
Didsbury,
Ashton,
Newton,
Ringley,
Chourlton : } No minister ; no elder.[1]

4.—Agreed that the exercise that should have beene at Manchester the third Wednesday in August instant bee turned to a day of fastinge & prayer for the distractions of the tymes, the unseasonablenes of the weather, & the distemper of the small pox that hath beene amongst us.

Mr. Harrison to preach next classe.

Mr. Angier moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2° Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 152° MEETEINGE at Manchester, September 13, 1659.

1.—Mr. Leighe preached before the classe for Mr. Harison.

2.—Mr. Angier, sen^r, moderator, began with prayer.

[1] See Newcome's *Autob.*, p. 112, for a picture of the fear and perplexity into which the Lancashire Presbyterians were cast by the rise of Sir Geo. Booth in Cheshire. The "battle and rout" at Northwich took place on the 19th of this month of August. Harrison's absence from the next classe was due to his arrest. On the very day of the meeting he was being "hurried away towards London by order from above."

He appears to have been the only member of this classis who was actually arrested, though Newcome was in fear of it. The dissensions between the Parliament and the army "wrought to our deliverance fast." Harrison was back in Manchester by the 30th of January following, and Newcome, who had feared for his augmentation, "lost not a penny by the business." All the Presbyterian ministers favoured the movement, but their conduct was very weak and equivocal.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpp deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers ; Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Ashton : No minister ; Isaac Dehowe, Edmund Heywood, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; Capt Booth, Robt. Collier, elders.

Gorton : Mr. Leigh, minister ; William Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Blakeley : Mr. Holland, minister ; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Eccles : Mr. Jones, minister ; no elder.

Newton : Mr. Walker, minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ellenbroocke : Mr. Coulborne, minister ; Thomas Topinge, an elder.

Stretford : Mr. Richardson, minister ; no elder.

Salford, Prestwich, Flixton, Didsbury, Ringley : No minister ; no elder.

4.—An exercise to bee at Denton the third Wednesday in October next.

5.—The classe agreed touchinge the delegation to the next Provinciall Assembly from this classe that a letter should bee sent to Mr. Gee in the name of the classe, to excuse the appearance of our delegates at this meeteinge because of the present sadd distractions of these tymes.

Mr. Angier, senior, to preach next classe.

Mr. Holland moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2o Tuesday in Octo. next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 153° MEETEINGE at Manchester, October 11°, 1659.

1.—Mr. Jollie preached before the classe for Mr. Angier, senior.

2.—Mr. Heyricke, moderator for Mr. Holland, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robt. Stansfield, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leighe, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coulborne, minister; Tho. Lansdale, Tho. Arrowsmith, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; the elders excused.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Ashton,
Salford,
Eccles,
Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Flixton,
Ringley,
Newton,
Blakeley: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ellenbroocke the third Wednesday in November next.

Mr. Angier, senr, to preach next classe.

Mr. Holland moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2° Tuesday in November next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 154th MEETEINGE at Manchester, Nov. 8o, 1659.

1.—Mr. Angier, senior, preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Constantine, moderator for Mr. Holland, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Newcome, minister; Mr. Buxton, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capt. Booth, John Johnson, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Samuel Scolfield, John Lees, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leighe, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister, excused, because sicke; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier absent, his excuse accepted; Thomas Walworth, an elder.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Coulborn, minister; Mr. Smith, Raphe Darbishire, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson absent, & no excuse sent in from him.

Salford: No minister; no elder.

Ashton-under-lyne,
Prestwich,
Flixton,
Didsbury;
} No minister; no elder.

4.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ringley the third Wednesday in Decr next.

5.—Mr. Nathaneil Baxter, minister at Michaells-upon-Wyre, Bachalour in arts, aged about 25 yeares, tendred himselfe to ordination; had a text given him to preach on the next classe upon 16 John ult. verse.

Mr. Newcome moderator next classe.

Next classe the seacond Tuesday in Decr next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 155th MEETEINGE, Dec. 13°, 1659.

1.—Mr. Baxter preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Newcome, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers; Mr. Meare, Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Byrom, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Capt. Booth, Robt. Turner, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leighe, minister; Mr. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; Robt. Mort, Capt. Seddon, elders.

Chollerton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshua Taylor, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker absent, his excuse accepted; no elders.
Ellenbroocke: Mr. Colborn absent, his excuse accepted; no elders.
Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elders.
Ashton, Prestwich, Flixton, Salford, Didsbury: No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Nathaniel Baxter brought in a testimoniall of his faire call to Micaells-upon-Wyre, and another testimoniall from Mr. Ambrose & Mr. Cole for his abilityes for the ministry & good conversacon; was examined in Greek, Logicke, Phisicks, Ethicks, & Metaphisicks, and thus farr approved. His question—*an datur tertius locus in statu animæ separatæ præter cœlum et Gehenna.* His neg. deff. Had an instrument given him to bee affixed on the church doore at Michaells-upon-Wyre.

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Blakeley the third Wednesday in Jan. next.

6.—The classis desires Mr. Newcome, & Mr. Jones to preach at Flixton, the first Thursday in January next, by reason of Mr. Woolmer's weaknes and inability by sicknes for the supply of his place.

Mr. Newcome to preach next classe.
Mr. Newcome moderator next classe.
Next classe the seacond Tuesday in January next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 156 MEETEINGE at Manchester, January 10th, $16\frac{59}{60}$.

1.—Mr. Newcome preached before the classe according to order.
2.—Mr. Newcome, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Newcome, minister ; Mr. Lancashire, Mr. Buxton, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, sen^r^, minister ; John Gee, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne : No minister ; Robt. Leech, Lawrence Wright, elders.

Ouldham : Mr. Constantine, minister ; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Eccles : Mr. Jones, minister ; Richard Edge, Thomas Edge, elders.

Newton : Mr. Walker, minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton : Mr. Leigh, minister ; William Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Ellenbroocke : Mr. Colborn, minister ; Hy. Smith, Raphe Darbishire, elders.

Chollerton : Mr. Jackson, minister ; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ringley : Mr. Angier, jun^r^, minister, absent, his excuse accepted ; no elder.

Stretford : Mr. Richardson, minister ; no elder.

Blakeley : Mr. Holland absent, his excuse accepted ; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton, Salford : } No minister ; no elder.

4.—Mr. Baxter to bee ordeyned at Manchester the third Wednesday in February next.

Mr. Walker to preach the ordinacon sermon, Mr. Leigh, Mr. Constantine to pray, Mr. Angier, sen^r^, to give the exhortacon.

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Newton the third Wednesday in March next.

Mr. Heyricke to preach next classe.
Mr. Newcome moderator next classe.
Next classe the seacond Tuesday in Feb. next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 157° MEETEINGE at Manchester, Feb. 14°, $16\frac{58}{59}$.

1.—Mr. Heyricke preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Newcome, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpp deputed for this meeteinge :

Manchester : Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, ministers ; Mr. Meare, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Wim. Byrom, elders.

Denton : Mr. Angier, minister ; Robt. Hyde, Esq., Robert Collier, elders.

Ashton : Mr. Harison, minister ; Capt. Ashton, Robt. Leech, elders.

Gorton : Mr. Leigh, minister ; Tho. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles : Mr. Jones absent, his excuse accepted ; Thomas Fylds, Thomas Edge, elders.

Ellenbroocke : Mr. Colborn, minister ; Mr. Smith, Thomas Lansdale, elders.

Chourlton : Mr. Jackson, minister ; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ouldham : Mr. Constantine, minister ; Francis Clegg, Joseph Hallowes, elders.

Newton : Mr. Walker, minister ; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley : Mr. Holland, minister ; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Salford,
Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Flixton,
Ringley: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Nathaniel Baxter mainteyned a dispute on this question—*an datur tertius locus in statu animæ separatæ practer cœlum et Gehenna.* Was examined in Divinity, Cronologie, etc., and approved.

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ashton-under-lyne the third Wednesday in Aprill next.

6.—Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, to preach the next classe because of his absence, according to an order of this classe, his excuse not being admitted by the classe.

Next classe ye 2^{o} Tuesday in March next.

Mr. Newcome moderator next classe.

The moderator ended with prayer.

ORDINATION BY THE PRESBYTERS OF THE FIRST CLASSIS IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER OF MR. NATHANIEL BAXTER, EXPECTANT, AT MANCHESTER, WEDNESDAY [FEB.] 15th, $16\frac{5}{6}\frac{9}{0}$.

Preparacon unto the said ordination accordinge to the ordinance in that case directing being made, and just satisfaccon being given to the classe of the age of the said Mr. Baxter, his degrees in the university, good life & call to the ministry of the gospell in the congregation of Michaells-upon-Wyre, in the county of Lancaster, by full certificates remaineinge upon the file and good evidence otherwise made to the classe in the premises. As alsoe hee being upon due examination for his abilities & fitnes for the worke approved, as appeares by the classicall meeteinge of Decr 3d & on Feb. 14th, 1659. Upon the 30th day of March aforesaid, it beinge appointed a day of solemne fastinge for the busines at Manchester, Mr. Constantine began with prayer, Mr. Walker preached, Mr. Liegh continued in the duty in prayer after sermon, Mr. Angier, senior, propounded the questions to the said Mr. Baxter, & hee did before the congregacon make publicke confession of his faith & such declaracon as was requisite in all other things propounded, accordinge to the ordinance aforesaid ; with earnest prayer performed by the said Mr. Angier, hee was solemnly set apart to the worke of the ministry by the imposicon of the hands of the Presbyters. Exhortacon was given to him touchinge his duty by the aforesaid Mr. Angier, & the action ended with prayer, the congregation was dismissed.

Hee had his testimoniall given him of such his ordinacon, accordinge to the usuall forme, vizt :—

Whereas Mr. Nathaniel Baxter, Batchalor in arts, aged . . . etc., apud Manchester.

Feb. 15, $16\frac{59}{60}$, w^{ch} was subscribed by

Henry Newcome,	John Walker,
Richard Heyricke,	James Jackson,
John Angier,	Thomas Holland,
John Harison,	William Colborne,
William Leigh,	Joshuah Stopford.
Edmund Jones,	

The 158th MEETEINGE at Manchester, 13° March, $16\frac{58}{60}$.

1.—Mr. Angier, junr, preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Leighe, moderator, began with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Stopford, ministers; Mr. Buxton, Mr. Lancashire, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Lawrence Wright, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, senr, minister; Capt. Booth, Robt. Turner, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine absent, his excuse accepted; Francis Clegg, an elder.

Newton: Mr. Walker absent, his excuse accepted; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; William Birtinshawe, Alexander Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Rogers, Thomas Edge, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, junr, minister; no elder.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Colborn, minister, absent, his excuse accepted; Raphe Darbishire, an elder.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; no elder.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Salford,
Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Forasmuch as there hath been a solemne day of thanksgiveinge observed by the parliament and the city of London for

the late great and wonderfull changes and deliverance begun by God for his people in these nations, and that wee in these parts have an eminent particular share in the same, it is agreed by this classe that Thursday, the twoe and twentieth of March instant, bee observed as a publicke day of thanksgiveinge in the churches of Manchester, Ashton-under-Lyne, Ouldham, and Eccles, and that notice thereof bee given in the severall congregations within this classe the Lord's day precedeinge to the end the said day may be observed in a religious manner as the matter doth require.

Mr. Stopford to preach next classe.

Mr. Leigh moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2° Tuesday in Aprill next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 159° MEETEINGE at Manchester, Aprill 10th, 1660.

1.—Mr. Stopford preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Leigh, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregation elderpp deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Stopford, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Lancashire, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, senr, minister; Robt. Collier, John Johnson, elders.

Ashton-under-lyne: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Lawrence Wright, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, James Lees, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Richard Edge, Thomas Edge, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leighe, minister; Thomas Strangwayes, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker absent, his excuse accepted; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Colborne, minister; Mr. Smith, Thomas Arrowsmith, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; Mr. Mort, Peter Seddon, elders.

Salford, Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton: } No minister; no elder.

4.—Delegated for the Provinciall Assembly at Preston to bee held the 2^{d} of May next:

Mr. Harison, or in his necessary absence, Mr. Angier, senior, Mr. Constantine, and Mr. Leighe, } ministers.

Mr. Illingworth, Robt. Hulme, Sam. Scolfield, Law. Wright, Sam. Taylor, Robt. Stansfield, } elders.

5.—An exercise to bee at Didsbury the third Wednesday in June next.

6.—Whereas upon the account given to this classe from the last Provintiall Assembly which was in May last concerneinge the vote of the said assembly at that tyme touchinge the validity of ordinacon of deacon to the whole worke of the ministry, w^{ch} was carried in the negative, & this classe seemed unsatisfied therein, & then concluded to send in their thoughts about it to the next assemblie. And whereas there is not now tyme to meete to consult about the busines that the delegates may take in our full resolution into this assemblie as to that thinge. It is resolved by the present classe that our delegates

doe, in the name of the classe, humbly propose to the next assemblie at their meeteinge that there may bee a committee of the assembly, or of such others as may bee thought fitt, appointed to meete at some convenient tyme & place to resolve the said vote for full satisfaccon of such as at present scruple & such as may bee concerned therein.

Mr. Richardson to preach next classe.

Mr. Leighe moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2° Tuesday in May next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 160 MEETEINGE at Manchester, May 8°, 1660.

1.—Mr. Richardson preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Leigh, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall eldershipps deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Stopford, ministers; Mr. Wickins, Mr. Lancashire, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, sen^{r}, minister; John Johnson, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Ashton, Robert Leech, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robt. Hulme, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, minister; Robert Mort, Peter Seddon, jun^{r}, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; John Lees, Francis Clegg, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Edge, Thomas Fylds, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland absent, his excuse accepted; Samuell Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Salford, Prestwich, Didsbury, Flixton: No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Harison gave an account from the Provinciall Assembly. The chiefe matter debated there was concerneinge the vote of the Assembly touching the ordination of the office of Deacon, with spetiall reference to the congregation of Bolton. It was ordred that a comittee of thirteene ministers should meete at Bolton to consider further of the busines, the meeteinge to bee on Tuesday, the Twoe and Twentieth instant. The ministers within this classe nominated to bee of the comittee, are: Mr. Heyricke, Mr. Angier, Mr. Harison, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Constantine.

5.—In regard that there is a publicke day of thanksgiveinge enjoyned by authority to bee kept the 24th of this instant, it is therefore agreed on by this classe, that endeavoures bee used with and notice given to the rest of the ministers within the province that are to meete at Bolton, that the meeteinge bee deferred till the Tuesday after the day appointed, w^{ch} will bee May the nyne and twentieth.

6.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Prestwich the third Wednesday in July next.

7.—Mr. Ellison called to the worke of the ministry at Flixton tendred himselfe to ordination, and is to preach the next classe.

Mr. Constantine moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in June next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 161 MEETEINGE at Manchester, June 12º, 1660.

1.—Mr. Ellinson preached before the classe accordinge to order.

2.—Mr. Constantine, moderator, began with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderPP deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Heyricke, minister; Mr. William Byrom, Mr. Wollen, elders.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Mr. Hyde, John Gee, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Josephe Hallowes, John Lees, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leighe, minister; Mr. Strangwayes, Alexánder Heron, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; William Smith, Thomas Rogers, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Colborn, minister, sicke, his excuse accepted; Mr. Smith, William Tonge, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland, minister; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshua Taylor, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Ashton, Prestwich, Salford, Didsbury, Ringley: No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Ellison brought in a testimonial under the hand of Mr. Ambrose, minister at West Derby, of his being student at Waddam Colledge in Oxford, of his diligence in his studies & of his good life and conversacon; and another testimoniall under the hands of Mr. William Bell, Mr. Robert Eaton, & Mr. John Fogg, that he is orthodox in judgment, of good life and conversacon, & fitt for the worke of the ministry. Hath beene examined in Logicke, Phisicks, Ethicks, Metaphisicks, & in Greeke, and thus farr approved. Had an instrum^{tt} given him to bee affixed on the Church doore at Flixton. His question—*utrum bona opera sint causa Justificationis vel pars aliqua Justiciæ nostræ coram deo.*

5.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Chourlton the third Wednesday in August next.

Mr. Colborn to preach next classe.

Mr. Constantine moderator next classe.

Next classe to bee the seacond Tuesday in July next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 162th MEETEINGE at Manchester, July 10^{o}, 1660.

1.—Mr. Leigh preached before the classe for Mr. Colborn.

2.—Mr. Constantine, moderator, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elder^{pp} deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: Mr. Stopford, minister; no elder.

Denton: No minister; Mr. Hyde, Robert Collier, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine, minister; Samuel Scholfield, John Lees, elders.

Ellenbroocke: Mr. Colborne, minister; Mr. Smith, Thomas Topinge, elders.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshua Taylor, elders.

Newton: No minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; Thomas Fyldes, William Smith, elders.

Ringley: Mr. Angier, sen^{r}, minister; Mr. Mort, Peter Seddon, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; William Birtinshawe, Robert Hulme, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Walker and Mr. Holland absent, and no excuse sent in.

Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Salford,
Flixton,
Ashton: } No minister; no elder.

5.—Mr. Ellison brought in a certificate of his faire call to the church of Flixton; was examined in Greeke, Logicke, Philosophie, Ethicks, Phisicks, & Metaphisicks, and thus farr approved; had an instrum^{tt} given him to bee affixed. His question—*utrum bona opera sint causa Justificationis vel pars aliqua Justiciæ nostræ coram deo.* His neg. deff.

The classe, upon some considerations, agreed to deferr his further examination in order to his ordination till the next classe.

6.—Agreed that an exercise bee at Ringley the third Wednesday in September next.

Mr. Hulme to preach next classe.

Mr. Constantine moderator next classe.

Next classe the 2^{o} Tuesday in August next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

The 163° MEETINGE at Manchester, August 14°, 1660.

1.—Mr. Holme preached before the classe according to order.

2.—Mr. Harison, moderator, for Mr. Constantine, begun with prayer.

3.—Members of severall congregationall elderpp deputed for this meeteinge:

Manchester: No minister; no elder. Mr. Newcome sent his excuse, and it was accepted.

Denton: Mr. Angier, minister; Robt. Hyde, Esq., William Booth, elders.

Ashton: Mr. Harison, minister; Capt. Sandiford, Robert Lees, elders.

Ouldham: Mr. Constantine absent, his excuse accepted; James Lees, Francis Clegg, elders.

Gorton: Mr. Leigh, minister; Mr. Strangwayes, Alexander Heron, elders.

Newton: Mr. Walker, minister; Thomas Baron, Peter Ashton, elders.

Blakeley: Mr. Holland absent, his excuse accepted; Samuel Taylor, John Travis, elders.

Eccles: Mr. Jones, minister; William Smith, an elder.

Chourlton: Mr. Jackson, minister; James Chourlton, Joshuah Taylor, elders.

Stretford: Mr. Richardson, minister; no elder.

Flixton: Mr. Ellison, minister; no elder.

Prestwich,
Didsbury,
Salford,
Ellenbroocke,
Ringley:
} No minister; no elder.

4.—Mr. Ellison returned his instrument affixed and subscribed; hath beene examined in Divinitie, Cronologie, & Ecclesiasticall historie. Hee mainteyned a dispute on this question—*utrum*

bona opera sint causa Justificationis vel pars aliqua Justitiæ nostræ coram deo, and was approved.

5.—Mr. Ellison to bee ordeyned at Flixton, Wednesday the 28th instant; Mr. Leigh to preach, Mr. Newcome to give the exhortacon, Mr. Walker, Mr. Jones to pray, & Mr. Constantine to pray at the imposicon of hands.

Mr. Angier, jun^{r}, to preach next classe.

Mr. Walker moderator next classe

Next classe the 2^{o} Tuesday in September next.

The moderator ended with prayer.

[End of Minutes of the 1st Classis of the Province of Lancaster.]

APPENDIX.

I.

THE MINUTES OF THE UNITED BRETHREN.

[The following minutes occur in the same *MS.* volume in the Cross Street Chapel which contains the Commonwealth records. It is thought best to print them here as a chapter of local history, and as having some relationship with the main subject matter of this volume, but without annotation of any kind. The difference between the state-enforced system of Civil-War Presbyterianism with the all-interesting question of its exercise of jurisdiction, and this merely voluntary union of dissenting ministers for general purposes of unity, need hardly be pointed out.

A strong interest attaches to the records of the various associations of United Ministers. They stand as indicative of the progress of religious evolution in the Dissenting body—of wider and looser ideas on the subject of Church polity and freer views as to doctrine, and in both respects they are typical of the transitional character of English Dissent at the close of the seventeenth century. They form the necessary historical link between the period of Civil War Dissent, with its pure Presbyterian and Independent activity and antagonism, and the period of stagnation which makes eighteenth century Dissent so desultory a study. There had been attempts under the Commonwealth at union between the two chief elements in the Dissenting body—Presbyterian and Independent—but in those days any such attempt was doomed to failure. In 1690 the historic situation was very different. It was not merely that thirty years repression had humbled the spirit of both parties and made them inter-tolerant; it was that with the progress of the century there had come to the descendants of the Covenanters milder and looser views on questions of doctrine and Church polity. Hence the creation of these associations of United Ministers; hence also their diminished force and vitality and historic interest—if, *i.e.*, the history of decay is in reality less significant and interesting than that of growth.

The creation of these associations commenced in London in 1690. The heads of agreement between the two bodies, "formerly called Presbyterian and Independent," are printed in Bogue and Bennet, vol. i. p. 382. They are declared to have been resolved upon "not as a measure for any national constitution, but for the preservation of order in our congregations."

It is instructive to compare this document with the Assembly's Directory, and with the heads of agreement as proposed in 1659. (See next appendix.)

It is difficult to ascertain the actual progress made in the work. The example of the London ministers was followed in Hampshire, Devonshire, Cornwall, and Cheshire, and references to other bodies are found in the following minutes.

The minutes of the Cheshire assembly are still extant, though not in original. A transcript is in the possession of the Rev. H. E. Dowson. The first meeting of the Cheshire ministers was held at Macclesfield, March $169\frac{0}{1}$, and the meagre records extend unbroken to the middle of the century, the last entry being Sept. 3rd, 1745.

Many of the signatures in these minutes of the Lancashire United Ministers are apparently genuine. The text is invariably, except the last page, in the handwriting of Grimshaw, a handwriting that bears close resemblance to the interpolating hand noticeable in the Commonwealth minutes.

The title "United Brethren" is retained in accordance with the *MS.* The proper title was "United Ministers;" under any conditions there is no need to point out the distinction between this association and the "Unitas Fratrum"—the Moravian Brotherhood.]

Bolton, April 3, 1693.

At a general meeting of ministers of the United Bretheren within the county of Lancaster,

It was agreed.

1.—That the pastours of their several congregations should set apart a day in May or June next (as it may consist best with their convenience) by way of humiliation, to confesse before the Lorde wherein they have failed (so far as they are convinced), & to bewail their past differences & present short cominge, & thankfully acknowledge the Lord's great goodness in sparing and carrying them on thus far according to the pious example of the United Brethren at London.

2.—That for baptizing of children of those who are not fixed members, it shall be left to the pious discretion of the pastor whom they baptize, takeing the best care they can for the religious education of the child.

Signed in the name of the United Brethren there met by us

Henry Newcome, moderator.
Charles Sagar, scribe.

A general meeting is intended to be held at Boulton on the first Monday in May, 1694, or sooner if any extraordinary emergency occurs for such an occasion.

At a General Meeteinge at Boulton, May 7th, 1694.

Present: Mr. Baldwin, moderator; Mr. Jolly, Mr. Seddon, Mr. Sager, Mr. Crompton (John), Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Angier of Liverpool, Mr. Whaley, Mr. Scoles, Mr. Eaton, junr, Mr. Chorlton, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Sergeant, junr, Mr. Roughley, Mr. Alred, Mr. Thomas Crompton.

It is agreed amongst us that each minister for his own congregation shall observe what sins doe most abound in it, & shall bend the force of his doctrine and the management of discipline chiefly against those sins.

Wee doe also agree to perform the exercise of catechizeing publickly where it may conveniently be made publick.

Wee will also endeavour, as the Lord shall enable us, to be more particularly acquainted with the state of these persons & families which make up our respective charges.

In noteing particular sins, we agree that each district judge for itself what account shall bee given to the next general meeting, in order to our more unanimous proceeding in the work of reformation.

We agree that the first Tuesday in September next be the day for our second general meeting this summer at Manchester, and Mr. Eaton, senr, is desired to preach to the ministers upon that occasion.

Roger Baldwin, moderator.
John Chorlton, scribe.

At a General Meeting at Manchester Of the ministers of this county. Sept. 4th, 1694.

Present: Mr. Eaton, senr, Mr. Newcome, Mr. Pendlebury, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Thomas Crompton, Mr. Finch, Mr. Aspinwall of Warrington, Mr. Jolly, Mr. Sager, Mr. Angier, senr, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Sam.

Angier (of Liverpool), Mr. Scholes, Mr. Eaton, junior, Mr. Whitworthe, Mr. Chorlton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Heywood, Mr. Roughley, Mr. John Seddon, Mr. Holt, Mr. Nathanael Baxter, Mr. Travis, Mr. Lomax, Mr. Wood, Mr. Loe, Mr. John Crompton, Mr. Worthington, Mr. Sergeant, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Sam. Wood.

Mr. Eaton, according to the desire propounded at the last general meeteinge, opened this by preaching a sermon, after which hee was chosen moderatour; Mr. Chourlton, scribe. The proposals for a general correspondence from the late association at Bristol (Mr. Forbes, moderatour) was read and considered, & the following answers given to the several articles.

To Article 1.—We unanimously agree that a general correspondence of the United Brethren through this nation is highly expedient and desireable.

Wee consent that the head of this correspondence be fixed at London.

For the method in which this correspondence shall be settled, we leave the frameing of it to the Brethren at London, & shall wait for an account of what they conclude upon.

To Article 2°.—We heartily approve the substance of it & recommend it to those of our brethren w^ch^ are not arrived to the practise of it. We have our provincial meetings twice in a year, & our several districts meet frequently besides.

To Art. 3°.—We shall take such notice of it & proceed in such manner upon it as we find most agreeable to our circumstances.

To Art. 4^th^.—We shall be ready to give notice above if any new sect arise amongst us, & for the rest of the article, we give the same answer as to the 3^d^.

To Art. 5^th^.—We agree fully in it, & doe resolve to practise accordingly.

To Art. 6^th^.—We agree to assist each other soe farr as common equity or christian charity oblige us.

To Art. 7^th^.—We approve it, & doe appoint Mr. Newcome of Manchester, & Mr. Jolly of New Chappell near Clitheroe, to manage the correspondence for this county.

To Art. 8^th^.—We are enstrained to defer it to our next provincial meeting, at w^ch^ time we shall proceed according to our answer to article 3^rd^.

To Art. 9th.—We have given our answer under art. 7th.

To Art. 10th.—We have agreed upon a method to defray the charge of the correspondence amongst ourselves so far as we are concerned.

To Art. 11th.—We shall be very cauteious in our proceedings.

Whereas it was agreed upon at our last general meeting at Bolton, May 7th, that each minister for his own congregation shall observe what sins doe most abound in it, & shall bend the force of his doctrine and the management of discipline chiefly against those sins; it is further resolved at this more full meeting, & upon a more particular enquiry, that we will not onely set ourselves but stir up the rest of our brethren in our several places, that we all may unanimously, as we have opportunity, promote the work of reformation, especially as to the scandalous provoking sins amongst professours.

We appoint our next provincial meeting to be at Warrington on the 2° Tuesday in April next.

Mr. Thomas Crompton is desired to preach the sermon.

Robert Eaton, moderator.
John Chorlton, scribe.

At a General Meeting of the Ministers of Lancashire.

Held at Warrington, April 9th, 1695.

Present: Mr. Thomas Crompton, moderatour.

Delegates from the Manchester district: Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Scholes, Mr. Chorlton, & Mr. Sam. Eaton (a candidate); present also Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Heywood, cand., Mr. Roughley, cand.

None were delegated from Bolton district, but there appeared of their number Mr. Alred, Mr. Whaley, Mr. Sam. & Mr. Jam. Wood, both candidates.

For Warrington: Mr. Risley, Mr. Aspinwall, Mr. Angier, Mr. Nailor, Mr. Hartley, Mr. Blinston, cand.

For the Northern district: Mr. Jolley, Mr. Sagar, Mr. Carrington, Mr. Thorley, candidate.

There were present also Mr. Cheyney, Mr. Henry, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Kinaston, Mr. Holland, Mr. Dearneley, Mr. Holt, cand., Mr. Leech, cand., Mr. Pownel, cand.

Out of Cheshire: Mr. Merryl of Staffordshire.

1.—Agreed that it is desired & will be expected that every district send a proportionable number of their own ordained ministers as delegates to each following general meeting, to represent the whole respective district. This is not intended to excuse a full personal appearance, w^{ch} is desired, where it can well be afforded.

2.—Mr. Baldwin is desired to represent to the ministers of the Bolton district our resentm^{t} of their neglect in not meeting amongst themselves, & not appointing some of their body to attend the general meeting.

3.—The delegates from the Warrington district, together with those of the Northern, consent to endeavour the promoting of a fund for education of young scholars.

4.—Agreed that every district shall take notice of those young men that preach long to a particular people, & seek not ordination, & shall advise them to accept it.

5.—Agreed that in the meeting of each district special care be taken for the improvement of young ministers.

6.—Agreed that the London ministers be addressed in the form presented by the Manchester delegates humbly to advise & persuade them to a good accord, & to let fall their present controversie in order to it.

7.—Concerning the case of using part of the Common Prayer in the chappell, it is agreed that we do not judge it convenient at this time to give a publick determination of this matter, but the sen^{r} ministers do profess their willingness, if particularly consulted & acquainted all the necessary circumstances, to give the best advice they can about it.

8.—Upon a representation of some differences between the Rev. Mr. Frankland, & the ministers of the Northern district, we agree to declare that it is our desire they would, as it is our judgment they ought to, compose their differences amongst themselves, & we shall rejoyce to hear of their good agreement.

9—Mr. Jolly is chosen to preach at the next general meeting w^{ch} is appointed to be at . . . on the first Tuesday in August next.

Tho. Crompton, moderatour.
John Chorlton, scribe.

At a General Meeting of the Ministers of Lancashire.

Aug. 6, 1695, at Blackbourne.

1.—There appeared these from Manchester district: Mr. Scholes, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Lomeaux, Mr. Eaton, candidate.

From the Bolton district: Mr. Crompton, Mr. Whaley, Mr. Samuel & Mr. James Woods.

From the Warrington district: Mr. Crompton, sen^{r}, Mr. Aspinwall, Mr. Angier, Mr. Heywood, Mr. Blinstone, candi.

From the Northern district: Mr. Jolly, Mr. Sagar, Mr. Pare, Mr. Rothwell, Mr. Seddon, cand., Mr. John Jolly, cand., Mr. Kenyon, cand., Mr. Sager, jun^{r}.

2.—As to the 2° Art. of the last provincial meeting, the ministers of Bolton district have taken notice of the message sent to them, & do already meet monethly, & for the future will take care to send delegates to the general meeting.

3.—As to the 3^{d} Art. the Warrington district have done nothing in it hitherto, but for the future do intend to take it into their consideration to raise a fund for maintaining some hopefull scholar.

4.—As to the 4th Art., those that are concerned are resolved upon ordination accordingly.

5.—As to the 5th, its left under consideration which way to do it in the several districts, the delegates being to bring in an account of what young men come in to preach amongst them since the last provincial meeting successively.

6.—As to the 6th it is referred to the Manchester district, with the advice of some neighbouring ministers, to consider the letter received from the London ministers & answer it as they shall see occasion.

7.—It is agreed that a publick register book be bought at the charge of the several districts, which is to contain the proceeding of our provincial meetings, & that the several papers which have passed already be transcribed into that book, & that an allowance be made to the scribe for his pains.

8.—It is also agreed that a paper sent in from the Rev. Mr. Frankland at this present meeting be considered of by the Northern district, & that he be earnestly desired to attend the general meetings if there be occasion.

9.—We do lastly agree to keep our provincial meeting at Bolton, upon the second Tuesday in April next, & do desire Mr. Walker to preach the sermon upon that occasion.

Thomas Jolly, moderatour.
Charles Sagar, scribe.

Lancashire, Ap. 14, 1696.

AT A GENERAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF THIS COUNTY AT BOLTON.

Mr. John Walker, moderatour.
John Chorlton, scribe.

Present from the Manchester district: Mr. Scholes, Mr. Chorlton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Eaton, Mr. Worthington, candidates.

From the Bolton district: Mr. Walker, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Whaley, Mr. Alred, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Samuel & Mr. James Wood, Mr. Kenyon, Mr. John Walker, junior.

From Warrington: None appeared save Mr. Hesketh, a candidate.

From the Northern district: Mr. Jolley, Mr. Sagar.

There were also present Mr. Frankland from Yorkshire, & Mr. Leech from Cheshire.

1.—The neglect of the Warrington district was noted and censured.

2.—The several districts are desired to prepare an account of the ministers & candidates within their compass, & of the congregations they labour amongst.

3.—A letter was signed by the moder^{r} & scribe, drawn up by Mr. Jolly, & ordered to be sent to the London ministers, & particularly to Mr. Howe & Mr. Mead, to encourage those that endeavour the composing of the present differences depending amongst them.

4.—The next general meeting is appointed to bee at Manchester, August 4th, being Tuesday, and Mr. Angier is desired to preach the sermon in case of Mr. Finch's disability.

John Walker, moderator.
John Chorlton, scribe.

At a General Meeting of the Ministers of this County of Lancaster.

In Manchester, August 4, 1696.

Present from the Manchester district: Mr. Finch, moder.; Mr. Eaton, sen^r^, Mr. Angier, sen^r^, Mr. Scholes, Mr. Chorlton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Heawood, Mr. Sam. Eaton, cand., Mr. Brooks, c.

From the Warrington district: Mr. Thomas Crompton, Mr. Blinstone, cand., Mr. Hesketh, cand.

From the Northern district: Mr. Jolley, Mr. Sager, Mr. Rothwell, Mr. John Jolley, cand.

From the Bolton district: Mr. Burn, Mr. Aldred, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Sam. Wood, cand., Mr. James Wood, cand.

From other places: Mr. Jolley, from Attercliffe; Mr. Byram, Mr. Jones, from Cheshire; Mr. Sagar, jun^r^, from Yorkshire; Mr. Smith, from Suffolk.

1.—The case of a minister's removal from his people when called to some other place was largely discoursed, and the case of Mr. Scholes in particular was referred to Mr. Angier and to Mr. Jolley of Attercliffe, upon a hearing of the people of Newton.

2.—The next provinciall meeting is appointed to be at Bolton upon the second Tuesday in April next; unless some publick fast or day of thanksgiving fall out in the same week, and then the meeting is to be kept on the tuesday following.

Mr. Burn is desired to preach the sermon.

Hen. Finch, moderator.
John Chorlton, scribe.

At a General Meeting of Ministers in Lancashire.

In Bolton, Apr. 13, 1697.

Present from Bolton district: Mr. Walker, moder.; Mr. Bourn, Mr. Jo[n] Crompton, Mr. Alred, Mr. Sam. and Mr. James Wood, Mr. Kenyon, Mr. Whitworth.

Manchester district: Mr. Thom. Crompton, Mr. Scholes, Mr. Chorlton, Mr. Sam Eaton, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Brooks, Mr. Roughley.

Warrington district: Mr. Risley, Mr. Bradshaw, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Nath. Heawood, Mr. Sam. Angier, Mr. Nailor, Mr. Owen, Mr. Blinstone, Mr. Culsheth.

Northern district: Mr. Jolley, jun[r], Mr. Hesketh.

An account of the proceedings of the Warrington district against Mr. Charles Lithgow with several papers thereto pertaining was read, and the said proceedings were approved of by this assembly.

The next provincial meeting is appointed to be at Warrington the second Tursday in August next, and Mr. Bradshaw is desired to preach the sermon.

John Chorlton, scribe.

At a General Meeting of Ministers of Lancashire.

At Warrington, Aug. 10, 1697.

Present: Mr. Risley, moderator.

Warrington district: Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Nath. Heywood, Mr. S. Angier, Mr. Naylor, Mr. Charles Owen, Mr. Blinstone.

Manchester district: Mr. Sam. Eaton, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Roughley.

Bolton district: Mr. John Crompton, Mr. Alred, Mr. Whaley, Mr. Sam. & Mr. James Wood, Mr. Rothwell.

Northern district: Mr. Jolly, jun[r].

Out of Wales: Mr. James Owen, Mr. Leech, Mr. John Owen.

Upon mentioning what has been done in Manchester district for the raising of something for mentaining young schollars, Boulton district declared that they had agreed for one year. The Warrington district will take it into consideration, and give an account the next provincial meeting.

A petition from the Lee being read, to procure them supplys from the fund at London, it was unanimously agreed that considering the present circumstances of it there can be no encouragem^{t} given them for such supply at present.

The next provincial is appointed to be at Blackbourn the second Tuesday in Aprill next, and Mr. Sagar is desired to preach the sermon, and in case of his disability Mr. Parr is desired to prepare a sermon for that day.

Samuel Angier, scribe.

At a General Meeting of the Ministers.

At Blackburn, Apr. 12, 1698.

Present: Mr. Jolly, sen^{r}, moderator; Mr. Waddington, Mr. Hesketh, Mr. Jolly, jun^{r}, Mr. Carrington.

From Manchester: Mr. Chorlton, Mr. Eaton, jun^{r}, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Lathropp.

From Bolton: Mr. Whalley, Mr. Kenyon.

From Warrington: Mr. Culsheth.

We do earnestly recommend to all our Brethren in their several districts to the reviving of itinerary exercises for the propagating of the gospel, especially in places of the greatest necessity.

We do also recommend to our s^{d} Brethren the work of reformation, according to the example of London & Dublin, especially in great towns, that they would please to consider how to carry on that good work according to their several circumstances.

The next meeting is designed to be at Manchester upon the seacond

Tuesday in August, and Mr. Tho. Crompton is desired to preach the sermon.

Tho. Jolly, moderator.
Tho. Dickenson, scribe.

Postscript :—

Agreed upon : That our brethren of the Manchester district return our humble & hearty thanks to the right honorable the Lord Willoughby, for his care & pains in presenting our addresse to the king's majesty.

LANCS. AT A PROVINCIAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF THIS COUNTY.

At Manchester, Aug. 10, 1698.

We, whose names are subscribed, do hereby certify to all whom it may concern that Mr. Tho. Crompton and Mr. John Chorlton, both ministers of the Manchester district, are by us, in the name and with the consent of all the ministers now assembled for this county, delegated to represent us in the next general meeting at London.

For the Manchester district : Hen. Finch.
For the Warrington district : James Bradshaw.
For the Bolton district :
For the Northern district : John Carrington.

AT A GENERAL MEETING AT BOLTON.

Apr. 11, 1699.

Present from Bolton district : Mr. John Crompton, moderator ; Mr. Bourn, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Alred, Mr. Wood, Mr. Openshaw.
From Manchester : Mr. Sam. Eaton, Mr. Dickinson.
From Warrington : Mr. Owen, Mr. Blinstone.
From Preston : Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Jollie, jun^{r}, Mr. Roscow, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Carrington.
As also Mr. Comberbach Leech, from Cheshire.

Whereas, a motion hath been made that a book should be provided wherein the determinations of these general assemblies should be recorded; its agreed that every district do contribute proportionably for the paym^t^ of some one or more, who shal be thought fitt to transcribe the same out of the several loose papers;

And in order hereunto the Manchester ministers are desired to look over the said papers, and bring them to the next general meeting.

Agreed, that if any particular weighty cases fall out in any district notice be given to the severall districts before the next general meeting, that the delegated may not come unprepar'd.

As to the carrying on of the exercises, it's refer'd to the several districts to manage them for the next summer, as may be most for their conveniency.

The meeting is appointed to be at Warrington upon the second Tuesday in August, & Mr. Bradshaw is desired to preach, or, in case of his indisposition, Mr. Naylor.

Subscribed by,
John Crompton, mod^r^.
Tho. Dickenson, scribe.

At a Meeting of the Ministers of Lancashire.

In Warrington, August y^e^ 8^th^, 1699.

Present: Mr. Chorlton, Mr. Aldred, Mr. Sam. Eaton, Mr. Grimshaw, Mr. Fletcher.

From Manchester district:

From Bolton district: Mr. Crompton, Mr. Woods, Mr. Whalley.

From Warrington district: Mr. Bradshaw, moderator; Mr. Risley, Mr. Naylor, Mr. Owen, Mr. Holt, Mr. Kenyon, Mr. Hays, Mr. Hesketh, Mr. Blinstone.

From the Northern district: Mr. Jolley.

Also Mr. Henry, Mr. Leech, Mr. Harvey, from Cheshire.

It is agreed that he who shall transcribe the provincial papers shall

be considered for his pains by a reasonable proportion out of the several districts.

The question was put & resolv'd, nemine contradicente, that the provincial meetings be held twice in [each] year as formerly.

We recommend it to the northern district, and particularly to Mr. Jolly, sen^{r} & jun^{r}, to Mr. Carington, Mr. Aspinal, & Mr. Parr, to make choice of a minister to supply Bispham in the room of Mr. Dickenson for the present, who is to be paid with a summe already remitted for that place.

Agreed, that the next general meeting be at Preston upon the second Tuesday in April, and that Mr. Parr be desir'd to preach upon the occasion.

James Bradstaw, mod^{r}.
John Chorlton, scribe.

At a Meeting of the Ministers of Lancashire.

At Preston, April 9, 1700.

Present from the Northern district: Mr. Parr, moderator; Mr. Jolly, sen^{r} & jun^{r}, Mr. Waddington, Mr. Carrington, Mr. Culsheth, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Hesketh, Mr. Roscow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Gillibrand.

From Manchester: Mr. Eaton, jun^{r}, Mr. Aldred, Mr. Dickenson.

From Bolton: Mr. Whalley, Mr. Rothwell.

From Warrington: Mr. Holt, Mr. Hayes.

The Manchester delegates gave account that in pursuance of what was agreed at Warrington the last provincial, concerning transcribing the provincial papers, Mr. Grimshaw, in Manchester, had already transcribed them, and its here further agree'd that in consideration for his pains in so doing a proportionable allowance be granted by ministers of the several districts, viz., Manchester to pay 3^{s} 6^{d}; Warrington, 3^{s}; Bolton, 3^{s}; Preston, 2^{s} 6^{d}; which was paid accordingly.

Agreed, that this letter following be sent to our worthy friends at London, who are concern'd in the disposal of the fund raised by a

charitable contribution for the mentaining of the ministry & for propagating the gospel :—

Reverend and dear Brethren,

Such is the state of the Churches & Dissenting congregations in the northern parts of Lancashire (where Popery and prophanenesse have obtain'd more than in other parts), that we are constrain'd to cry to you for help towards the mentaining of the gospel where it is, & the propagating of it in other places; for as we are hardly sett to raise a very ordinary supply towards a necessary subsistence of fixed ministers in particular places, so we have encouragem^{tt} as to several other meetings if we had any encouragem^{t} as to the maintenance of ministers there. It would be too much at present to trouble you with the particulars, unless you judge fitting & desire it; but if you please to betrust the matter with some whom you may most confide in they may give you a particular account of every circumstances in the several cases, and how they dispose of your charity to your more full satisfaction. We hope we need not to enlarge in a case so commonly known, nor to such whose hearts are so enlarged already.

Brethren, we recommend you in this and all your other affairs to the divine conduct & blessing.

At a general meeting of the dissenting ministers of the county of Lancaster, at Preston, upon the 9th of Apr., 1700.

Signed in the name & with the consent of the whole assembly,

Tho. Jollie.
Rob. Waddington.
John Parr.
Jo^{n} Carrington.
Sam. Eaton.

Agreed, that the next provincial meeting be at Manchester upon the second Tuesday in August, and Mr. Finch is desired to preach, and in case of indisposition Mr. Chorlton.

Publick notice was given at this meeting by the delegates from Manchester that an ordination was intended to be at Macclesfield, in Cheshire, upon the 18th day of June next ensuing.

John Parr, moderator.
Thom. Dickenson, scribe.

Att a General Meeting at Manchester.

Aug. 13, 1700.

Present of the Manchester Classis: Mr. Finch, moderator; Mr. Eaton, sen^{r} and jun^{r}, Mr. Aldred, Mr. Conhingham, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Heywood, Mr. Brooke, Mr. Denton, Mr. Fletcher.

From Bolton: Mr. Bourn, Mr. Crompton, Mr. Whalley, Mr. Whitworth, Mr. Rothwell, Mr. Woods.

From Warrington: Mr. Owen, Mr. Heys, Mr. Whitfield.

From Preston: Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Culcheth, Mr. Gillibrand.

From Rothwell: Mr. Clegg.

Whereas, two persons coming from Liverpool did desire our opinion whether Mr. Parr should come to them to be their minister, we judged it not proper to determine anything about it without hearing both sides, the case not having been already before the classis to which it belonged primarily

Agreed, that Mr. Coningham write to Mr. Chorlton to advise with the London ministers about the correspondence.

That none be admitted to preach before they have the approbation of all the ministers of the classis where they live.

That the several districts consider, betwixt this time and the next provincial meeting, what other methods may be most expedient and effectuall for the keeping out of the ministry ignorant, raw, insufficient and scandalous persons.

It's desir'd that the contributions for maintaining yong men at education for the ministry be continu'd or reviv'd, if neglected in any of the classes.

The next provincial meeting to bee at Bolton the 2^{o} Tuesday in April, and Mr. Walker (or, in case of indisposition, Mr. Crompton) is desired to preach.

Hen. Finch, moderator.
Tho. Dickenson, scribe.

[End of minutes of United Brethren.]

II.

[For an account of the Solemn Exhortation see these minutes for November, 1648, and February, 164$\frac{8}{9}$, and notes. Reprinted from a copy in the King Street Library, Manchester, No. 36,108, furnished by Mr. C. W. Sutton.]

A SOLEMN EXHORTATION

made and published to the several Churches of Christ within this Province of Lancaster for the Excitation of all persons therein to the practise of their duties, requisite to the effectual carrying on of Church discipline, and in it the edification of our churches, and the reformation of religion, by the Provincial Synod, assembled at Preston, Feb. 7, 164$\frac{8}{9}$.

The government of the Church of Christ, which he himself instituted, being in this province lately restored to the hands of those, his officers, unto whom he hath himself committed it; He who is the head of the Church, to whom God the father hath given all power in heaven and in earth, having stirred up and stood by the honorable and pious parliament, whose acts will be renowned, to wrest it out of the hands of those that usurped, depraved, and misadministred it, and with the advice of the Reverend assembly of Divines to deliver it, vindicated and purged from the former depravements, and confirmed with their civil sanction, to those his servants unto whom by his will and testament he had assigned it: The faithful execution of this government now rests upon the charge of those officers with whom it is so, both by divine commission and humane injunction, entrusted; and the diligent improvement of it to Spiritual advantage remains upon the care of those churches and church members over whom it is placed, and to whose benefit it is appointed to be subservient, and if either the execution of the one or the improvement of the other be slacked the effect of it will faile, and great will be the fail thereof; *We* of this synod, called by the aforesaid authorities, opening a way to the churches whereunto we severally appertain, to design us to the present inspection of this large association of churches for their edification, having set ourselves to finde out and

pursue what, within the extent of our power, may be conducible thereunto, have quickly apprehended the promoting of the aforesaid due execution and improvement of church government to be mainly necessary to that end; and not only taking notice of but laying to heart the slow proceeding of it among us, more especially in some places and more particularly in some duties, have thought meet amongst other means for the putting on thereof, to address ourselves by way of exhortation to all our churches and in them to all our brethren, both publicke officers and other members, beseeching the God of all grace, through Jesus Christ, that this our service may be acceptable and profitable to them, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

The matter, dearly beloved in our Lord, of Church Discipline, which we persuade, were it either arbitrary or of a temporal concernment, we should have passed it over in silence at this time, but when we consider that it is one of those commandments which our Lord Jesus Christ before his ascending up to heaven, through the Holy Ghost gave unto the apostles whom he had chosen, and whom he charged to teach all nations, made his desciples to observe all things whatsoever he had commanded them, and that it hath the Church of God and the souls of men purchased by his precious blood for its object; the restoring and preserving of the purity of Christ's ordinances, the verity of his doctrine, the orderliness of men's conversations, the peace and union of Christian brethren and Churches in judgment, heart and practise for its end, and that ignorance, error, and iniquity, are the enemies against which it draweth forth and weildeth it weapons; we cannot but speak, and yet withal judge a little speaking for this to them to whom we speak may suffice.

The miserable disorders, errors, and offences, which like a flood have broken out, continued, and risen to so great a height amongst us, to the high dishonour of the name of God, the great hindrance and shame of the gospel, and the trampling of the holy things and precious pearls thereof under the feet of dogs and swine, the subversion of many souls, the vexation of others, the disturbance of our churches' peace, and the erecting of many walls of partition betwixt brethren, the decay and discouragement of the power of godliness, the opening of the reproachful mouths of the enemies of religion, the advancement of Satan's seat amongst us, the pulling down and continuing of many national

judgments, and the rendring of reformation so extremely difficult; *These, these*, oh brethren! are the deplorable fruits of the want of this discipline, which but to mention may make all pious ears to tingle; what, then, may the seeing and enduring of them so long move in our hearts? And how great a guilt shall we incur if we shall be now wanting in our places either to the setting up or diligent practise of this Discipline? And here, as we cannot excuse ourselves in our own consciences, so we desire not to conceale that in the late Prelaticall usurpation, we are conscious to ourselves of departing from our duty in compliance with the misproceedings thereof. We judge ourselves for it, and we do earnestly desire that our failings herein may be so far from becoming a president for the future, either to ourselves or others, that the remembrance thereof may be to both for time to come a caveat and an incentive to obfirmed fidelity and diligence in all our disciplinary duties, and that whatsoever sort of men may come hereafter to carry themselves in way, either in neutrality, discountenance, prohibition, or opposition to us therein, we may yet acquit ourselves in the same. We would not have to be forgotten how long the work of the reformation of this church in point of discipline hath staid and stuck behind those of doctrine and worship, which hath been our great stain and tryall. With what prayers, tears, solicitations, and testimonies, by preaching, writing, practising, and suffering our predecessors and we have striven for the effecting of it? What expectations and hopes of late have bin conceived of it? What undertakings gone about and adventures made for it? What delays and obstructions have been interposed? How much and many ways Satan and wicked men have stood against and retarded it? What contestations and conflicts have been encountered? What costs not onely of wealth but of blood, expended for the attainment of it? What a publique, solemn, and soule-binding covenant and oath hath been taken by us and most people in this nation, sincerely, really, and constantly, to endeavour the same? By what slow steps, through the violent and hazardous oppositions made against it, the intervention of other urgent affairs, and the intermixture of humane frailties, the parliament, the Assembly of Divines, and the several Church assemblies in their respective endeavours about it have proceeded? And how, in and above all, the most mighty hand of God hath been exalted, and his unsearchable wisdom and rich mercy magnified in not onely the

redemption of our lives, liberties, and estates from the common enemies, and the full subduing of them once and again before the Lord and before his people, but the bringing forth out of all those perplexed, dangerous, difficult, and cross occurrences of great advantage to us, as in many other respects, so especially in the establishing of Church Government in that good measure in which it is settled. The progress whereof in this province we have much cause to admire and study thankfulness for. And we confess the greatest defects that now remain concerning it are in the practice of it which is our part; and that the unfitness, unsetledness, averseness, and remissness of men's spirits in relation to it is now the great obstruction at which it sticks; and we may be jealous lest as the want of love to the truth hath through the just judgment of God been a wide inlet in many places to damnable heresies, so the want of a heart in us to use this price in our hand of Church power may lay us open to destructive disorder. We observe also, that as man's corruption and Satan's malice concurred to hinder church Discipline while the work of discovering, clearing up, and publique authorizing of the rule was in hand, by raising and keeping up of differences in judgment with hot and doubtful disputes concerning it, unworthy aspersions and contempt cast upon it, anticipations of mature direction of authority about it by some brethren rending from our Churches, and setting up ways of discipline dissonant to it, private politique designings under pretence of it, a common hatred to reformation and strictness imposed by it, disaffection and discouragement to it by many in places of power, expectation and endeavours for a legal toleration, and an assuming of liberty in religion for the present, the fruitful mother of all atheism, error, false religion, and prophaness, so do they still concur by the same arts and means, and that with a higher hand to hinder the putting of it in practice. So that by the short experience we have had, and the present face of things, we may very probably make account to meet with yet as much, yea more, difficulty in the carrying on of this discipline than was found in the establishing of it, which some men, whose counsel is flesh and blood, discerning, may perhaps take occasion thence to languish in their activeness, or wholly to refrain from acting, or to stand off from joyning in it, and happily to blame the godly forwardnes of others. But we wish such men better counsellors, and hope all those who are acted by

principles of conscience and spiritual interest will from the apprehension of such difficulty collect an obligation to more diligence, and thence address themselves with greater zeal, courage, and resolution to the work.

All these mighty engagements and impulsives, brethren and beloved, being with serious and right Christian consideration weighed, we beseech and exhort you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that the government and discipline of the Church ordained by Christ, and set forth summarily by authority in the ordinance of parliament of 29th August, 1648, be presently, faithfully, constantly, and impartially, put in practise in all church assemblies by all ministers, ruling elders, and other Christians, according to the power or commandment delivered to them in the word of God respectively, with all other known duties of religion coming within the cognizance of the said government; and in particular as conducing or necessarily concomitant thereunto, these following:—

First, that in such congregations as are not provided of ruling elders, and may afford any number of persons duly qualified for that office, the ministers and people do, without delay or excuse, proceed with due solmnity to elect such elders; and that the persons so elected take upon them the said function as thereunto called of God; and that the classical Presbytery to which that congregation appertaineth, or, if that be not, the ministers and others nominated by ordinance of parliament of 2 Octob., 1646, as fit to be of that classis, proceed to constitute that congregational eldership to which the said persons are so chosen; and the eldership so constituted to address themselves to the execution of the discipline in their congregation with all diligence, and to associate themselves, as they have opportunity, to the classical presbytery which they belong unto.

That the ministers of the Gospel give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word; *That* they study to shew themselves approved to God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth; *That* they be eminently and exemplary holy and blameless in their conversation; *That* they be quicksightedly watchful against the springing and spreading of errors, and the breaking out of divisions within their flocks, and that they labour to instruct, by way of catechising, all the young and weak in knowledge within the same.

That the ministers and elders set themselves diligently to the oversight of their congregations to discern unto and help them in their knowledge and spiritual estate, and to discover, direct, and correct their conversation therein, passing over none that profess Christianity within their bounds uncast out of the church, and endeavouring the recovery of those that are cast out; *That* they constantly meet in publique that they may be ready for the addresses of the people, and to consult on, and apply such means as may be effectual for the edification of the congregation or any member thereof; *That* they rule with diligence and impartiality in the application or releasement of Church censures, as the condition of any shall require; *That* they punctually observe the meetings of the associated presbyteries, classical and provincial; *That* in matters too hard for their single elderships, or wherein they are appealed from, they may reap the benefit of joint counsel, authority, and prayer, and mutually afford the same, and that none of them detract, grow weary, or suffer themselves to be diverted from frequenting such assemblies, although the affairs of Church discipline being so newly entred upon be for the present somewhat extraordinarily pressing.

The classical presbyteries (being that one special work of theirs is to superintend them that have the oversight of others) are besought to take special care that the ministers and ruling elders within their respective divisions be sufficient for their callings, industrious in the execution thereof, and unblameable in their walking; in which respect their acutest vigilancy is required that the unworthy be timely prevented, the negligent or offensive regulated, and the unreclaimable ejected.

All Christians whatsoever are exhorted that they beware of giving any offence to any, either by manifest sin or by the appearance of evil, remembering the double heavy woe which, in the sentence of our blessed saviour, offences bring, to wit,—one to the world, another to the offence giver. *That* they carefully avoid all rash or groundless taking of offence against any person or practise, not judging upon inevident cases as being bound out from it by a double law of justice and charity: And here whereas there are said to be some that murmur against certain of the communicants in the several congregations as if they were visibly unworthy of the Lord's Supper, we desire that such complainers would rather apply themselves to their duty of private admonition and publique information and proof thereof before the elderships respectively, and

not uncharitably charge either an unworthiness upon a party, or a mis-administration upon an eldership before a due eviction thereof be made.

And forasmuch as imputations of insufficiency and scandalousness are, in general expressions and in private talk, cast upon some church officers, we earnestly pray that there may be either an orderly complaint, prosecution, and proof made of such imputations before the Presbytery whereto any such officer belongeth, or a forbearing of such smitings with the tongue.

Furthermore, Christians are exhorted that what errors or offences they plainly discern in any brother they take notice of them, not to hate, disdain, upbraid, or presently to withdraw brotherly respect and society from him for the same, much less to whisper or to publish such things, when, where, and to whom there is no warrant, to the defamation or exasperating of the party and the multiplying of offences; but to exercise pity, and endeavours of recovery towards him. If the matter be a smaller failing, or but an infirmity, to instruct and persuade him, and patiently to bear respecting his amendment. If the matter be of an higher nature, and scandalous indeed, let every one take heed of winking at or being wanting in his place to the removing of the scandal, and make conscience to apply himself according to the rule of Christ, by a set, solemn, and opportune admonition in private to the lapsed party, with al wisdom, fidelity, meekness, and love, accounting it a happy work to gain a fallen brother, and that this private admonition is ordinarily the first step to the process of church discipline. If upon it the parties' repentance be not discerned, follow our Saviour's rule to the next step, take along with you to the person one or two faithful brethren, that they may be both witnesses and assistants to a second admonition. If neither in this course a good effect appear in him, omit not that third remedy prescribed by Christ of telling it to the church, but go and acquaint the eldership with thy brother's trespass, thy past proceedings for his reclaiming, and the successfulness thereof—which last remedy is to be made use of forthwith in all publiquely known or openly divulged scandals, and both in case of such published scandals, and in those more private, so persisted in against brotherly admonition as is aforesaid, we exhort every person that is offended or knoweth and can testifie the matter of fact, that he willingly appear and witness the same before the eldership, all which is to be done by every

one respectively, as he tendereth the saving of the offender, the putting away of the evil from the Church, the vindication of that worthy name of Christ, by which we are all called, and the purity of his ordinances, and that he himself may not be a partaker of other men's sins. In this course of admonition and prosecution before the eldership, let none out of private spleen revive the memory of old and forgotten offences, which not only tract of time but the real reformation of the party unto the full satisfaction of the godly and silencing of the world may have buried. And let every one that is overtaken with a fault be ready to receive, submit to, accept of, and improve to his good, the admonition of any church officer or brother given him as an act of conscience and love in his brother, and as to himself a kindness or excellent oyl to heal him.

Also, we exhort all Christians cordially to esteem and affect diligently, to attend upon, really to subject themselves to and profitably to use what discipline is but the conservatory or inclosure of, to wit, the publique and private ordinances of the Gospel—as the word, the sacrament, prayer, and the rest; and, in regard of that great neglect, we observe in many places by many of that soul feasting ordinance, the Lord's Supper, which was so dearly bequeathed by Christ immediately before his death unto his church, we exhort that no person of age, that names himself by the name of Christ, would ordinarily absent or wretchedly deprive himself thereof; but that he labour for knowledge to enable him to examine himself for faith and for a good conscience towards God and man, and that he be diligent in the use of all publique and private means to attain the same, and particularly that he submit to be catechised by the minister, and tried and approved by the eldership. And whereas, some that come not to the Lord's Supper, nor offer themselves to the eldership to be admitted to it, repine as if they were kept back by them; they are exhorted not to pretend themselves to be debarred by them, whereas they never tendered themselves to be received. And whereas, others that absent themselves, except against the admonition by approving themselves to the eldership in point of knowledge and conversation, such should religiously weigh upon what binding grounds the eldership requires the said satisfaction, and to endeavour themselves either to receive resolution of the eldership or minister for their insisting on such satisfaction, or to yield resolution to

them for their refusing to give it; and if that way they gain not access to the ordinance, rather to appeal to the classical, and thence to the provincial assembly, in case they find themselves aggrieved, than to sit down without using what means they are afforded to gain participation in so necessary and precious an ordinance.

All governors of families are exhorted to see to the godly ordering of their households, to observe constantly, and to bring all under their charge unto family duties of religion, as prayer, reading the word, repeating and taking account of sermons, especially on the Lord's day, singing of psalms, catechising them and bringing them to be catechised by the minister, that they may come to and grow up in the knowledge and obedience of the truth necessary to their salvation, and so to restrain them from wickedness, and lead them to godliness both by their own example and by their own authority, that, as much as in them lies, the Church or any of their brethren be not offended with any of them, and their eternal happiness may be procured.

Also, such as keep schools for the education of youth are exhorted to train up their youth in divine literature, and to discipline them to eschew vice and practice piety, themselves also exercising duties of religion in their schools, and being every way exemplary in good to them; and that in allowing times of recreation they, according to the Directory, leave the observing of holy days and exchange them for other convenient times.

And we exhort that if any brethren amongst us either in anything dissent from the present constitution of church government, or take offence at any practice in any of our churches or members, they would beware of running into or continuing in schism thereupon, but walk by the same rule with us so far as there is an agreement in judgment betwixt us, and endeavour to receive or give satisfaction wherein there is any practical difference, and take heed of violating their own declared principles concerning continuing or withdrawing of Church communion.

Lastly, let all Christians chiefly study, strive for, and exercise the power of godliness whereto church discipline serveth as a handmaid, and whereof visible conformity is but the outward shape; and let the mainest of their care be employed in the getting and keeping of faith and a good conscience, the materials of that power of godliness; and seeing most perillous times are come upon us, wherein it is opposed

and assaulted by all ways both of subtlety and power, we earnestly exhort and warn you all that with exquisite heed and resolute stedfastness ye discern and resist all those that shall seek to seduce you either into error or division contrary to that sound doctrine and safe fellowship which ye have embraced in our churches; that, with accurate circumspection, ye keep yourselves from the common and raigning sins of these times; that ye stand fast to our Solemn League and Covenant in all the branches of it, and namely in those that contain the great and much hazarded publique interests of religion, civil government, and brotherly union, not suffering yourselves to be drawn aside to any new inventions to the subverting of any of them; and that ye walk in the old path and good way of the infallible scriptures, and avoyd such courses as have but the warrant of pretended good intentions, urgent necessity, or mis-interpreted providence coyned for them; and if it be the will of God that ye must suffer for not saying a confederacy to such ways or for well doing, be not afraid of men's terror, neither be troubled nor ashamed, but sanctifie the Lord God in your hearts, rejoyce, count yourselves happy, glorifie God on this behalf, and commit the keeping of your souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful creator.

James Hyet, moderator.
Thomas Johnson, assessor.
Edward Gee, scribe.

III.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE QUARREL BETWEEN LAKE AND CONSTANTINE FOR THE POSSESSION OF THE OLDHAM CHURCH.

[The following letters are taken throughout from the Raines *MSS.* in the Chetham Library. They have a strong twofold interest, throwing light at once upon the procedure of the Committee for Plundered Ministers and upon the character of one who was to attain such a position in the Church and history of England as did John Lake, the nonjuring bishop of Chichester. (See *supra*, note on Engagement, and Appendix of Ministers under Lake and Constantine.) The bald facts seem to be that Constantine was outed for refusing the Engagement, and retired to Burstall in Yorkshire, that John Lake got in first as a supplyer and then by order of the Committee for Plundered Ministers; that the Constantine party then brought charges of malignancy against Lake (1652), that there was a lull of the prosecution during 1653, and that Lake contrived to hold Oldham until the close of 1654. Constantine reappears in the minutes as representing Oldham in March, 165$\frac{4}{5}$. His return had been apparently rendered forcible by the repeal of the Engagement.

The first three letters are introductory.

These letters have been in great part printed by Mr. Giles Shaw, in "Oldham Local Notes." They are here printed from the originals, and complete, and with an attempt at chronological order.]

[1.][1]

ATT THE COMITTEE FOR PLUNDERED MINISTERS,
Octobris 21, 1646.

By virtue of an order of the houses of parliament of the second of May last it is ordered that the yearly sum of fourty pounds be paid out of the profitts of the impropriate rectory of Oldham, in the County of

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 81.

Lancaster, sequestered from Edmund Ashton, Esq., delinquent; to and for increase of the maintainence of a preaching minister at the chapel of Shaw, within the parish of Ouldham aforesaid, and the sequestrators of the premises are required to pay the same accordingly at such times and seasons of the year as the said profitts shall grow due and payable.

Har. Grimston.

[2.][1]

Goldsmiths' Hall, London.

At the Comittee for Compoundinge with Delinquents,
10 December, 1646.

Edmund Ashton of Chollerton, in the county of Lancaster, beinge formerly fined fourteene hundred and fouerteene poundes with a provisoe that if hee should settle fiftie poundes per ann. upon the chapelrey of Oldham for the maynteynance of a preaching minister there for ever, and fourty poundes per annum out of the said tythes of Oldham upon the chappell of Shawe for the mayntenance of a preachinge minister there for ever, the fine should then bee five hundred and fowerteene poundes. Now for that it appeares that the said addicon of fiftie poundes per annum to the chappell of Oldham will not make up a sufficient mayntenance to the incumbent, it is therefore ordered that if the said Edmund Ashton shall likewise settle the residue of the profitts of the rectory of Oldham, being fiftie poundes per annum, the whole amounting to one hundred and fourty poundes per annum upon the said chappell of Oldham, then the whole fyne to bee allowed, and hee to bee discharged.

Jo. Leech.

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 20.

[3.][1]

For Mr. Henry Wrigley, Mr. John Ogden, Mr. John Smith, and the rest of the Gentlemen of Oldham parish.

These

Gent.—By the goodnes of almighty God we have now gotten your busines so dispatcht as will be doubtless to your great content and comfort. I have formerly written to you that there was no hope of obtayning of that w^ch^ is now fully done. I had my greatest discouragement (w^ch^ I surmised to you) from a gentleman, that upon some further consultation had with him hath been now very instrumentall for the efecting of yo^r^ busines. I am a witnes of the executing of a deed by w^ch^ you have the whole rectory of Oldham settled in as good a way as you can wishe upon your church of Oldham and Shawe chappell, as this bearer will show you under Mr. Rich his hand, who is the counsell assigned for drawing up all conveyances of this nature. There is a fine to be levied for confirmation of this assurance the next assizes at Lancaster, w^ch^ Mr. Rich hath desired me to bring him an attorney to take care of, to see it well done. If you conceyve anything yet to be wanting (for Mr. Rich hath promised me to cause Mr. Ashton to doe any further thing w^ch^ I shall show him to be wanting for the making of all sure unto you) let me know, and I shall labour to accomplish your desire. I pray remember my true love to Mr. Barnett and the same to youe all, with my hearty prayer to almighty God that his speciall blessing may be of the best use unto youe, even to further the salvation of your soules in the great day of all the world. I take leave and rest

Your faithful friend & servant,
John Bradshawe.

Maydenhead in Wood Street,
Dec. the 18th, 1646.

I have sent you by this bearer the order I procured before for £40 to be allowed for mayntenance of a minister at Shawe chappell.

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 21.

[4.][1]

Honoured friends.

I would intreate you to contribute your best assistance to your neighbours att Ouldham for the removeall of Mr. Lake, minister there. I know hee hath bene a grand enemie to the parliament and in armes in former times. Hee ever, when hee lived with us, sided and kept company with the basest and most malignant. Hee was an enemye to the poure of religion. All this is for former times. I thinke those that solicite against him can say more for his miscarriage in latter times, w^ch^ if they doe, I pray you doe your uttermost to cleare the coast of him. I have no more but my respects to you both and the rest of your Godly oficers, and doe subscribe myself yours in all Christian service,

Henry Roott [Root].

Sorbie [Sowerby], Aug. 9, 1652.

[Endorsed] For his well beloved friends Le Coll. Worsley & Mr. Wiggan, these,

at James', Westminster.

[5.][2]

November, 14th day, 1652.

Mr. John Lake, his opinion delivered unto the congregation at Oldham, for baptizinge of bastards, upon his baptizinge a child begotten in adultery.

Saide hee, I understandinge myself to bee charged to bee faultie for baptiseinge of bastard children, doe affirme that it is not onely my opinion but the opinion of many other godly divines as Mr. Codrie, with divers others that I could quote, that not only bastards, but the children of heathens and excommunicated persons, if brought, weere to

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 31. [2] *Ibid.*

be baptised. And that though under the lawe theere was some restrainte, yet now under the Gospele the partition wall beinge taken awaie, there is no difference betwixt Jewe and Greeke, barbarian, Scythian, bond or free, and I say legittimate or illegitmate, but Christ is all in all. And hee said the children shall not answer for the sinnes of the parents, nor the parents for the sinnes of the children, but the soule that sineth shall dye.

Aledginge this for his opinion and practice.

[6.][1]

Sir,

A certain book entituled "A Vindication of the Presbyterial Government," etc. (that great Diana about whose demolishing such hububs are raised), comming to my hands as from you, I had intended in satisfaction of your desires to have given you my thoughts upon some passages in it (and had in good measure prepared the same) since it satisfyed not my scruples according to your hopes. But these underhand actings, which are against me, and with which, notwithstanding the management of them with so much subtilty and secrecy, I am not altogether unacquainted, call upon me to study mine own safety rather than your satisfaction, not sought, as appears, with that sincerity on your hands as (God is my witness) it was intended on my hand. I shall, therefore, reserve my thoughts to myself and recommend you and yours to the great searcher of hearts, beseeching him by his spirit of truth to guide you and me and all the Israel of God into all truth

and do rest, sir, yours in and for Christ,

Jo. Lake.

Chadderton, 15 November, 1652.

[Address] To the worp[full] Henry Wrigley, Esq., these present.

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 33.

[7.][1]

For Mr. Henery Wrigley, at the Chamber, Esq., near Manchester, Lancashire.

These

Concerning Mr. Lake. *Hast, Hast!*

Sir,

Yours I rec[d] yesterday, whereby I understand that Mr. Lake is now useinge meanes to get handes to a petion; divers of which are hands of men of other parishes. I should be glad to know, if it were possible, the names of those men not being of his owne parish [could be got, and who they] are that labour [in getting] such hands. I have sent you hereinclosed the order from the Committee you desired. It will be well you labour to send up the examinations as soone as can bee, and that you doe your bussinesse effectual. It will not be amis, seeinge they intend to present a petition, that you have a solicitor who dayly waits upon the Comittee, to speak to it, if any such come to them, lest they get out any crose order, because I cannot attend allweyes there. You must labour to make yourselves as stronge as you can, & I shall labour to serve you to the utmost of my abilitie, & tell you,

I am,

Your most humble servant,

Charles Worsley.

James' the 19th Nov., 1652.

[8.][2]

Sir,

Yours of December the 8th I received (together with the inclosed), which how consistent it is with another of yours wherein you was pleased to make profession (I wish you had been as well pleased to make it good) that you was not one of those that loved to contend with

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 25. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 23.

the priest, let the world judg. If you can you may doe well to tie the foxes' tailes together (only let the firebrands, I pray be left out)—truth is, I cannot. If such processe against the priest as this be not contending with him, what is? But, least I be thought to contend, I come to the matter in hand. As to which my answer for the present is briefly this: That so far as the order from the Hon^ble^ Committee obligeth me so far will I obey, but if this fall short of what you seem to expect for further I must crave excuse, notwithstanding the imperiousness of your stile—"it is required by the justices of peace and by us" (sounding much like Cardinal Wolsey's ego et rex meus—I and my king). As to your pretended desires that there may be fair and plaine dealing, without favour or partiality, I shall say but this, the Lord judg betwixt us. In the interim, your actings in the business seem to me as irreconcileable with these desires as your aforesaid letters one with the other. Howbeit, I doubt not but those gentlemen that shall be entrusted will deal equally and indifferently according to the representation that is made, nor (if this be due and true) doe I at all fear the issue. In the meantime, I leave it to God to whom issues belong, not doubting but through grace I shall find as much joy and peace in my sufferings as you in your actings against me; & blesse God that I can unfeignedly pray for you whilst you so violently persecute me, and still continué, *Sir*,

Yours in all Christian offices and services,

Jo. Lake.

Monday morning in hast.

[Endorsed.] For the wor^pfull^ Henry
Wrigley, Esquire, these
are.

[9.][1]

By virtue of an order to us dereicted from the h^ble^ Comittee for plundered ministers for the examinacon of witnesses to certaine articles exhibited against Mr. John Lake, minister at Ouldham. These are to

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 31.

will and require you that you be and personally appeare before us, or some of us, at the house of Mrs. Elizabeth Helliwell, in Manchester, at and upon the 28th day of this instant December, by tenn of the clocke in the aforenoone of the same day, then and ther to answer to such questions as shall be propounded unto you at your comeinge, *and not to departe away till discharged by us* [erased]. Faile not herein as you will answere the contrarie at your perill.

Given under our hands this 21st day of this present December, 1652.

Edm. Hopwood.
John Gilliam.
Edward Holbroocke.

[10.][1]

To the worp^full^ Henry Wrigley, Esquire,
these present.

Sir,

Upon receipt of yours requiring me (in the name of some of the justices of this county, by virtue of an order from the Committee of Plundered Ministers) to be at Manchester the 28th of this instant; willing to accept of your time & place, I bespoke some other justices then & there to give those bespoken by you the meeting, according to the true intent of the order so far as I (& others of more knowledge and experience in matters of this nature) conceive. But truth is, so it falls out that some of those I had bespoken, by reason of some business calling them to Preston the very day designed for the meeting at Manchester, cannot attend it. Upon notice whereof, I forthwith went to Mr. Hopwood, desiring in their names that it might be put off to some further day, who, considering it very equal and reasonable, wished me to advertise you so much. And whereas, your summoning of witnesses against that day may be pretended, he conceives that those near hand may with ease be adjourned; and if any perhaps come from Halyfax, their depositions may be taken by Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Holbrook, if their coming cannot be prevented. In consideration whereof, I would

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 37.

desire that some other day (whatever you may think meet after Wednesday next) may be assigned, a favour you cannot well deny if you desire fair and equall dealing, as you pretended in your last—not that I fear the contrary from those made choice of by you, only the liberty which seems to be allowed me I would not lose. This is all at present, but that I am, Sir,

Yours in all Christian offices and services,

Jo. Lake.

Chadderton this instant,
Thursday night.

[11.][1]

For my respected friend,
Henry Wrigley, Esq.

Mr. Wrigley,

Upon the request of Mr. Leak to deferr this meeting a few dayes that I might the better order my owne affayres, I sent my man Simon to you on Saturday last purposely to know your minde whether you would consent to it or no, and hee brought back this word from you—that you could not return a full answeare till you had conferred with the rest, and withall that you would signify your resolution to mee betyme this morning. And truly I stayed Simon here this day till noon, expecting to heare from you; but not hearing anything, Simon is now gone from home and will not return till to-morrow at night. So I can by no means meet to-morow, and it is through your own default for all had been one to me, either to-morrow or another day if I had known in tyme. If at any other tyme you have occasion to use me you shall ever find me

Your faithful friend,

Edm. Hopwood.

Hopwood, December 27th,
1652.

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 33.

[12.][1]

For the worp[full] Henry Wrigley, Esquire. These are.

Sir,

Not having a resolute answer to my last, on either hand I expected ere this to have heard further from you, which, since I do not, I have sent this upon the same errand, to crave that is, some other day for examination of witnesses in the matter depending amongst us may be set, and to know what that day is. Wherein, if by this messenger I receive not satisfaction, I shall make bold to take mine own day, and give in mine answer to some two or more of the Justices of the county (the utmost the order requires of me) such as shall be willing to take it and examine my witnesses in proofe of it, and if you can do anything without a conjuncture (since you seem so unwilling to it), you may.

The rest is that I rest sir, yours in all Christian offices and services,

Jo. Lake.

This instant Saterday night.

Sir,

If you agree to alter the day, it is needful (as may easily be conceived) that I know it this night.

[13.][2]

By virtue of an order from the Commity for Plundered Ministers to us and other of our fellow Justices of the peace for this county directed, theise are to charge and comand you and every of you personally to appeare before us and such other of our fellow Justices as shall be present at the house of Elizabeth Hallwell in Manchester, innkeeper, upon Tuesday, the fourth day of January next, before tenn of the clocke in the afternoone of the same day, then and there to answer such questions

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 23. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 33.

as shall be demanded of you, whereof faile you not, as you and every of you will answer the contrary at your perills.

Given under our hands this xxviii day of December, 1652.

L. Rawstorne,
John Gilliam,
Edward Holbroocke.

[14.][1]

For the wor^{pfull} Henry Wrigley, Esquire, at his house, Chamber Hall. These are.

Sir,

Expecting to see you at Manchester (according to agreement) on Tuesday last, I went thither, but found myself deceived in my expectation, some other occasion or else an indisposition to the meeting (it should seeme) withholding you. In consideration whereof, as also knowing that delayes are dangerous, I desire and expect that a speedy process in the businesse depending betwixt us may be made, & a day the next week set to that end. And whereas some intimations are given me, in your name, that you are willing to referre the matter to four godly ministers, the truth is, I cannot referre it to any man or men unles the charge that lyes against me, before the Hon^{ble} Committee for plundered ministers may be withdrawne, nor do I conceive how any man or men can take upon them to intermeddle in it, but in subservience to the said Committee, whilest it lyes before them, or what any composure that shall here be made can amount to, whereas, after all, they may call for the prosecution of it. If, therefore, the charge may not be withdrawne, as you have appealed to the Hon^{ble} Committee, so to them will I goe, not that I am indisposed to peace, but make it my daily prayer to the God of peace that he would guide our feet into the way of peace (with which we seeme to be too little acquainted), only

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 23.

a peace so much to my prejudice as the said charge still lieing against me, might prove I cannot approve. But let that be withdrawne, and none shall be found more willing and ready for an accomodation than,

Sir, yours in and for Christ,

Jo. Lake.

Chadderton, Jan. 17th, $165\frac{2}{3}$.

[15.][1]

[Endorsed] Copy of articles against Mr. Lake.

ARTICLES TO BE EXHIBITED AGAINST MR. JOHN LAKE, MINISTER, NOW OFFICIATEING AT OULDHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

Imp.—That the said Mr. John Lake hath bene a grand cavaleire in former tymes and is yett a frequent companion of malignant & disafected people.

2.—That in all congregacons where the said Mr. John Lake hath officiated as minister [he] hath by the godly bene reputed to be an enemy to reformacon and the power of godlyness.

3.—That whereas one Mr. Robert Constantyne, a godly minister, who was settled at Ouldham by order from the hon'r^{ble} parlam^{t} was, by reson of the informacon of some disafected p'sons, detained & keept from the congregacon, and the said Mr. John Lake, in his absence, in a suttle way gott in as a supplyer of the congregacon; upon his admittance made sollome promises and protestacons not to settle himselfe as minister ther.

4.—That the said Mr. John Lake, shortly after hee was gott in, gave notice hee would administer the sacram^{t} to the congregacon, who then did, and still doth, administer the same in a general and promiscuous way, contrarie to the rule injoyned by the hon^{rble} parlam^{t}, or practised by any reformed congregcaon, admitting thereunto many caveliers of

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 26.

remote parte ; and invaies in his sermons against the godly, because they doe not, nor in conscience can they, come in and joyne with such to abuse the ordinance of Christ.

5.—That the said Mr. John Lake, not regarding his promise nor protestacon, with the ade and assisstance of some whom he had humored with his promiscuous administracon of the sacram^t^, gott hands to a writting or peticon, many of which said hands were persons of another parish ; which was sent, as wee alsoe are given to understand, to the honr^ble^ Committee of Plundered Ministers, and thereupon an order granted for his settlement, in which order is expressed that the s^d^ Mr. Constantyne was sequestered from his place, whereas hee was never proceeded against in poynt of sequestracon, nor called to any tryal.

6.—That the said Mr. John Lake since hee obtained the said order doth much countenance loose persons, indevringe with all his power to settle such in offices to serve his and their one designes for the discorishment of such as desire reformacon.

7.—That the said Mr. John Lake doth baptyse basthardes, not onely of his own congrecon but of other parishes, the parents not giveing satisfaccon to congrecon, w^ch^ thinges doth very much discorish the harts of the godly.

Mr. Rigby, Deponent.

To the firstt article—

This examinantt said that hee did butt know Mr. John Lake for a shortt time before hee came to bee a supplyer at Oldham, butt hee hath heard by severall sufficientt men's report, and also seen it certified in writing from a very good hand, that hee was a cavalier. And since his comeinge hee hath observed and found thatt hee hath bin a frequntt companion of malignantt and disaffected people, and for as farre as he cold observe by his cariage hath kept very little company with godly and religious people either of the clergie or laity.

To the second article—

That since hee, Mr. Lake, came to be a supplyer att Oldham hee hath found him by his words and alsoe by his carriages to oppose reformation and the power of godlinesse.

To the third article—

Hee saith that when Mr. Lake was tendred to be a supplyer to the congregacon all that were on his partt did butt move in the publique congregacon that hee might bee a supplyer there till Mr. Robertt Constantine came to his tryal. And the said Mr. Lake did make full promises and protestacons in words before him (this examinantt) and many other witnesses, and did alsoe by his handwriteing fully express thatt hee would not endeavour or seeke to settle himself as minister there.

To the fourth article—

Hee saith thatt shortly after Mr. Lake was admitted to bee a supplyer hee gave notice thatt hee would administer the sacramentt uppon such a day and severall dayes since, and thou[gh] this examinant never stayed the sacram^{tt} with him, yett according to his usuall manner hee stayed in his seate till mostt of the people were gone forth of church, excepting such as hee conseived would stay the sacramentt, and thatt then hee leftt in the church severall cavaliers and disaffected persons that came from remote parts uppon purpose, as he (this examinantt) veryly beleeveth to receive the sacram^{tt} from the said Mr. Lake.

To the fifth article—

Hee saith thatt the said Mr. John Lake, contrarie to his promises and handwriteing—which hee (this examinantt) heard him to acknowledge to bee his owne handwriting—with the ayd and assistance of such persons whom hee had humored by his preaching with setting open to them a more wide and general way for their communicateing with him then ever hee observed to bee in any congregacon where hee lived, either in the bisshopes times or since, gott hands to a writeinge or peticon w^{ch} was tendred to this examinantt to have had his hand. To which hee answered hee cold nott give his hand, itt being publicly agreed upon in the congregacon and also promised by Mr. Lake thatt hee should butt bee a supplyer untill such time as Mr. Constantine came to his tryall, and the substance of this peticon being for the settlement of the said Mr. Lake as minister att Oldham, and hee (this examinantt) hath heard & veryly beleiveth thatt the said peticon was sentt to the honrable comittee for plundered ministers for thatt hee had seene an order made

by [the] s^d^ comittee for his settlementt att Oldham till further orders should bee given by the said honourable comittee.

To the sixth article—

Hee saith thatt the s^d^ Mr. John Lake since the obtaineinge of the said order hath more countenanced loose persons than ever hee did know any minister doe in all his experience, and with unparaleled indeavours ever hee observed to bee in any minister hath laboured to settle such in office. And he (this examinant) conceived those his violent indeavours to settle such in office was to serve his owne designes, w^ch^ hath bin a griefe to him (this examinantt) and as he veryly beleeveth to others that desire reformacon.

[On the back is the following.]

Mr. John Lake did opose the parishes eleccon of honestt menn which they had nominated for churchwardens, both in open sessions and att a privie sessions, with great violence, because some of them were non-Engadgors, endeavouring to have hadd them putt off and loose persons of his own nomination putt on.

[16.][1]

For my very much respective and approved kinde friend Henry Wrigley, Esquire. Theise.

Sir,

Yesterday I have received yours of 29th of the last month, and according to your desire did immediately returne you the certificate of the ministers of your classis by the same messenger, and for further answer to your letter because the truth is such things as you therein mention are much out of my memory, because but little in my care, doubting (as there is cause enough, and as is too visible to the world) how little of the compulsive power transmitted by the old parliament, is left to the

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 39.

rest of the gent. and myself concerned in that order; yet, if you can effectually revive any thing by those orders and conveyances in your custody (w^ch^ I presume you may in regard, it seems, they were in force to the last incumbent), I shall be ready to joyne with the other gent. in any instrument or draught that they shall approve of for the settling of so good a worke, and for your better proceeding herein I conceive the likest way of dispatch is to show Mr. Asherst your last draught, to which I suppose he was then privy, and I presume will have the lesse cause to make any alteracon in so that if those two gent. approve it and . . .? to me, because they are rather neighbours to the place than myself, I shall readily (and the sooner at your instance, especially having so ample testimony of the meritts of the gent. both for your justificacion and my owne) follow their good example. For any other instructions than this I suppose you cannot expect to receive from me (wanting the sight of the papers), yet if you can shew me wherein I may be any more serviceable to you, pray make use of me, for Sir, I am

Your very much obliged friend to serve you,

Ro. Assheton.

Whalley, this 4th of November, 1653.

[Postscript] *Sir*,

I confesse it is out of my memory that ever I joyned in any act of this nature but only with Sir Thomas Witherington for a tithe belonging to Sir H. Compton, & those that were concerned with it ware pleased to have coppyes of all the papers, w^ch^ I desire (if my joining be necessary) may be likewise afforded me, being first prepared to be left with me.

[17.][1]

THE COPIE OF MR. THOMAS CUDWORTH HIS CAVIETT PUT IN AGAINST MR. CONSTANTYNE FOR MR. LAKE.

Lett nothing be done as to the approbation or admission of Mr.

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 35.

Robert Constantine to the vicarage of Oldham, in the county of Lancaster, till notes be given to Mr. Thomas Cudworth of Grays Inne.

John Nye,

June the 5th, 1654. Reg^r.

[18.][1]

Articles made, concluded, and fully agreed uppon, this fourteenth day of July, according to the computation of the Church of England, one thousand six hundred fifty foure, betwix John Lake of Chadderton, in the county of Lancr., clerke, and John Milner of Chadderton aforesaid, in the county aforesaid, clerke, uppon thone partt, and Robert Constantine of Burstall, in the countie of Yorke, clerke, and Henry Wrigley of Chamber within Oldham, in the countie of Lancaster, Esq^re, uppon the other partt.

Are as followeth :—

First.—It is covenanted, concluded, and agreed by the said John Lake and John Milner, for themselves, their heires, executors, adm^rs, and every of them, that the said John Lake shall and will, uppon the 25th day of December nextt ensuing the day of the date hereof, quietly and peaceably resign upp to the said Robert Constantine the rectory of Oldham, with all the profits thereunto belonginge, in case thatt then the said Robert Constantine shalbe legally capeable to enjoy the same; and in case hee shall nott then bee legally capable to enjoy the said rectory of Oldham, thatt then uppon any other 25th of December thatt thereafter shall next ensue after such time as the said Robertt Constantine shalbe legally capeable to receive the said rectory and profitts thereof and thereunto belonging, that upon such twenty fifth day of December, which shall soe thereafter next ensue, the time thatt the said Robertt Constantine shalbee legally capable to receive the said rectory and profitts thereunto belonging, thatt then and att such time hee the said John Lake shall and will peaceably and quietly resigne upp to the said

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 29.

Robertt Constantine the rectory of Oldham, with all the profitts thereunto belonging, withoutt makeing any further claime to the said rectory and profits or any of them.

Secondly.—Itt is covenanted, concluded, and agreed by the said Robertt Constantine and Henry Wrigley, for themselves, their heirs, executors, admrs, and every of them, that the said John Lake shall and may peaceably and quietly exercise his ministry att Oldham afores^{d}, and alsoe shall receive, take, and enjoy, all the profitts thereunto belonging untill the said twenty fifth day of December next ensuinge, in case the said Robertt Constantine shall bee legally capable then to receive the same; and further alsoe, in case the said Robertt Constantine shall not then bee legally capable untill such other twenty fifth day of December first nextt ensuinge, after such time as the said Robertt Constantine shall be legally capable soe to receive the said rectory and profits thereof, without the trouble or molestation of the said Robertt Constantine and Henry Wrigley, or either of them, or any other person or persons by their or either of their procurement. And also that in case any person that is on the part of the said Robertt Constantine shall and doe on his behalf make any disturbances to the said John Lake in the reapeinge and receiveinge of anny of the said profits of the said rectory of Oldham before such time as the said Robertt Constantine shalbee legally capable to receive the said rectory and profits, thatt then the s^{d} Robertt Constantine and Henry Wrigley will make and give satisfaccon to the s^{d} John Lake for the same. And alsoe itt is further agreed thatt in case the said Robert Constantine shall appeare to be capable of the said rectory and profitts before the aforesaid John Lake shall have rec^{d} this yeare's profits or any other profitts before the said John Lake is agreed to resign, and thereupon any person or persons shall refuse to pay such dues to the s^{d} John Lake as of right doe belong to the rectory of Oldham, thatt then, upon the request and att the cost and charges of the said John Lake, hee the said Robertt Constantine shall authorise the said John Lake, by letter of attorney or any other legall way or meanes for the recovering of all such dues.

[This sheet is only a draft, and contains no signatures.]

[19.][1]

Knowe all men by these presents that whereas I, John Lake of Chadderton, in the county of Lancaster, clarke, and John Millner, of the same place and county, clarke, did upon thone part enter into certaine articles to and with Robert Constantine of Burstall, in the county of York, clarke, and Henry Wrigley of Chamber in Oldham, in the county of Lancaster, aforesaid, Esq., upon thother part, which said articles beare date the fourteenth day of July last past, wherein (amongst other things articled, covenanted, and concluded, and fully agreed upon by us, the said John Lake and John Millner, for us our executors and administrators, and every of us) it was covenanted and concluded and fully agreed upon that I, the said John Lake, should and would, upon the 25th day of December thence next ensuinge, quietly and peaceably resign up unto the said Robert Constantine the rectory of Oldham, with all the profitts thereunto belonging, in case the said Robert Constantine should be then legally capable to injoye the same. Now know ye that I, the said John Lake, doe by these presents, in pursuance of that part of the said articles, peaceably and quietly *release*, *acquitte*, resigne, *and give* up unto the said Robert Constantine the said rectory of Ouldham, together with all the proffittes thereunto belonging, without making any further claims to the said rectory and profittes or any of them *in any sense*. In witness whereof I, the said John Lake, have hereunto set my hand and seal this 25th day of December, in the yeare of our Lord God, according to the computation of the Church of England, one thousand six hundred fifty and fower.

Sealed, signed, and delivered,
in presence of

[This sheet has no endorsement, nor any signatures. It is not in the handwriting of Lake. The words in italics have been crossed out in the original.]

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 37.

[20.][1]

MEMORANDUM.

That we, whose names are subscribed, were att the house of Mr. Edmund Radcliffe, in Ouldham, the 25th day of December, 1654, and there wee sawe a writeing which in our hearing was called a resignation, being on a sheet of paper, tendered by Robertt Constantyne and Henry Wrigley to John Lake, by him to bee sealed and signed, which hee refused to doe, and did except ag^t^ the same because of theis words thatt were mentioned in itt, viz., "release, acquit, and give upp," and also theis words, "in any wise," because, said John Lake, these words are not in the articles, to which Robert Constantine and Henry Wrigley said that they were willing a new one should be drawne, and all those words left out and noe words put into the resignation but what were in the articles, and this they often expressed to John Lake. But hee still refused, and said he would not seale such an one for itt was his judgment that Mr. Robert Constantine was not legally capable.

Humphrey Marler.
Oliver Shawe.

[21.][2]

To the wor^pfull^ Henry Wrigley, Esquire, at Chamber,
these present.

Sir,

Being made acquainted by this bearer, George Scholes, with some desires amongst other discourses of yours touching my resignation to Mr. Constantine, I thought it meet for preventing all misprisions to acquaint you that I am yet ready, as I was on Monday last, upon any indifferent score to resigne. To which end, if you please to appoint the place and any houre of this day or to-morrow, I shall not fail to give

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 39. [2] *Ibid.*, p. 35.

you the meeting, and to grant whatever in a way of reason may tend to a peaceable composure. But if this seem not good you may take what course the law affords, and excuse me if I take what advantages I can for myselfe. The rest is that I shall nevertheless rest,

Sir, yours in all Christian offices,

Jo. Lake.

Chadderton, Dec^{r} 30, 1654.

[22.][1]

A Note of the Ministers' Names that are intended for the exercise att Ouldham.

1654.

Appriell,	Mr. Meek.
	Mr. Joans.
May,	Mr. Herricke.
	Mr. Hollingworth.
June,	Mr. Harpur.
	Mr. Goodwine.
Julie,	Mr. Lake—election.
August,	Mr. Harison.
	Mr. Angier.
September,	Mr. Bathe.
	Mr. Walker.
October,	Mr. Ashton.
	Mr. Milner.

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 35.

IV.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE CLASSIS CONCERNING CATECHISING.

[For the import of the following paper see pp. 273, 277. It is reprinted from the "Censures of the Church":—

In the "Epistle to the reader," prefixed to the "Censures," it is referred to in these interesting words: "This paper which we published in our congregations . . . though approved by the provinciall, yet, being directed only to the congregations of our own association, was drawn up short, being for the use of those that were not altogether strangers to the Discipline, it having been practised amongst them for several years before; and the rules whereof, as they are more fully and particularly held forth in the forme of church government established by the parliament, so had been more fully expounded to them in our publick ministry, as there hath been occasion."

The gentlemen in their "prefaces" declared that herein the classis "go to the high waies and compel all to come in and give submission to their government by subjecting themselves to examination by the ministers and elders, not only such as may be suspected to be ignorant or scandalous but all—of all elevations, of all judgments—must come under the inquisition, not so much to fit them for the sacrament as to teach them obedience."]

THE PAPER THAT WAS PUBLISHED BY THE FIRST CLASSIS within the province of Lancaster in the severall congregations belonging to their association.

November 22, 1657.

AT THE FIRST CLASSE AT MANCHESTER,
Sept. 8, 1657.

In pursuance of an order of the last provinciall, the first classe doth humbly represent to this assembly their apprehensions in the case to them propounded in a draught prepared for the several congregations belonging to their own association, if it shall be approved of by this assembly, and which they do wholely submit to their judgments.

It being represented to this classe and much complained of and offence being taken that in the several congregations (if not in all) belonging to this association there are many persons of all sorts that are members of congregations and publickly enjoy severall priviledges, as hearing of the word, prayers of the church, and baptizing of their children, and satisfaction for injuries done unto them, and yet live in a total and sinfull neglect of the Lord's supper, that are scandalous and offensive in their lives, drunkards, unclean persons, swearers, Sabbath breakers, neglectors of family duties, that will not subject themselves to the present government of the church, but live as lawless persons out of their rank and order, & that there are sundry that are grossly ignorant in the main points of Christian religion. These are to give notice that this classe, laying these things to heart and much grieved for them, do publish and make known.

1.—That every minister belonging to this association shall set apart one or two or more of the weeke dayes in every month for the catechizing of the several familyes belonging to their respective congregations, and for the information of the ignorant in those families; and that the families to be catechized on each of such dayes set apart for that purpose have notice the Lord's day before to meet the minister either at the church, or chappell, or the minister's house, or some other house within the congregation that may be convenient for the neighbouring families to meet at, that shall be appointed for such a day as may be judged meetest by the several ministers.

2.—That notice shall be taken of all persons that forsake the publick assemblies of the Saints, and constantly turn their backs of the Sacrament of the Lord's supper.

3.—That like notice shall be taken of all scandalous persons.

4.—That they shall be privately admonished, according to the order prescribed by Christ (Matthew xviii.), once or twice to see if they will reforme, and that the minister, when he catechizeth the several families, shall exhort such persons in them as he finds to be of competent knowledge and are blameless in life that they present themselves to the eldership that they may be admitted to the Lord's supper.

5.—That if they will neither hearken to private admonition nor the

admonition of the eldership, their names shall be published openly in the severall congregations, and they warned before all to reforme.

6.—That if after all this they shall continue obstinate they shall be cast out and excommunicated.

These things the classe thought fit to give publick notice of, being very sensible that for the want of the vigorous exercise of church discipline, ignorance, atheism, and licentiousness growes upon us, to the great dishonour of God, scandall of religion, hazzard and undoing of many precious souls, and the laying a blot on our several congregations; and, therefore, they are now resolved (seeing themselves necessitated to this severity of discipline for the freeing themselves from the great guilt of neglect of their own duty that otherwise they shall be under) to make use of that power that Christ hath committed to them for edification and not for destruction, although it would be their far greater joy that there might not be occasion of using sharpnesse; and, therefore, they doe earnestly in the bowels of Jesus Christ beseech all those that are ignorant that they would apply themselves diligently to the use of all publick and private meanes for their information, submitting themselves with all readiness to be instructed, and to consider that without knowledge the mind cannot be good; and they do also, in the name of Jesus Christ, exhort and warn all such as live scandalously, and in the practice of open sins, that they breake off their iniquities by repentance, and turn unto God speedily with their whole heart, that they neither incur the censure of being cast out of the church here nor by continuing in their sinfull course be kept from ever entering into the kingdome of Heaven hereafter.

And as touching such as turne their backs constantly on the Lord's supper this classe doth wish them in seriousnes to consider what an account they will be able one day to give unto Jesus Christ for their living in the dayly neglect of an ordinance that is so exceeding necessary for their own comfort and growth in grace, and that they would lay aside all prejudice, or whatever it is that hinders, and submit themselves unto wholesom order for their own good, as this classe hath been ready on their part to expresse all tenderness toward the weak and a willingness to condescend to the meanest for the removing all occasions of stumbling so far as lies in their power. And yet, considering the fearful

danger that all such do lay themselves open unto that shall eat and drink the body and blood of the Lord unworthily, they do warn whosoever comes to the Lord's table to take special care so often as they come to examine themselves lest they eat and drink their own damnation.

But because the exercise of church discipline must begin at private persons, and that if they neglect the duty of watching over and admonishing one another and bringing complaints to the eldership as there is occasion, little or nothing can be done for the thorow reformation of the several congregations; this classe doth therefore warn all and every of the members belonging unto them to consider the great guilt they will lye under if they through their neglect obstruct so necessary a work, and doth exhort that therefore they would in all faithfulnesse, laying aside all partiality, slavishness, and self respects, addresse themselves to the discharge of their duty, that if any walk disorderly, and will not be reclaimed by private admonition, they making complaint thereof to the eldership, course may be taken for excommunicating of the obstinate, and thereby purging out the old leaven to the glory of God, the delivering their own souls from that guilt they will otherwise lie under, the preserving the ordinances from prophanation and the rest of the lump from being leavened, the stopping of the mouths of such as seek occasion against us, and finally the everlasting welfare and salvation of the souls of those that go astray.

Richard Heyricke,
moderator pro tempore.

By the provincial assembly
at Preston, Oct. 6, 1657.

This representation is approved by the provincial assembly.

Thomas Johnson, moderator.
Edward Gee, scribe.

V.

PROPOSITIONS FOR ACCOMODATION, 1659.

[The original of the following, with signatures but not autograph, occurs as a loose sheet in the Cross Street volume. For its significance see *supra* pp. 304, 349. It has been several times carelessly reprinted.]

PROPOSITIONS FOR ACCOMODATION AGREED UPON BY US WHOSE NAMES ARE SUBSCRIBED, AT A MEETING IN MANCHESTER, JULY 13th, 1659.

I.—Wee agree that all persons who should bee admitted to the sacrament of the Lord's super shall have these qualifications :—

1.—A competent knowledg in the principles of relligion, and bee sound in the faith.

2.—Such as bee without scandall.

3.—Such as maintain the exercises of Christianity, viz., pray in and instruct their familyes, reading the word, carefull sanctifying of the Lord's day and the like known dutyes in scripture, according to which rule since the reformation we conceive we have walked and (God assisting) doe intend to continue soe.

II.—That we hold communion in each others congregations in the sacrament of the L. S., as there may be occasion upon recommendation on personal knowledg of such members of our congregations as desire it.

III.—That if there have been any deviating or shall bee for the future from the character above mentioned, the persons thereat offended, having discharged their own dutyes, shall give notice to the churches that there may be orderly proceeding against them.

IV.—That such pastors as are suitably qualified with gifts and grace for the ministry, and have due tryall and approbation by preaching elders, shall be allowed of among us, and for the future (after like tryall)

there shall bee an imposition of hands by preaching officers upon such as are to undertake a pastorall charge.

V.—That none shall preach among us but such as are approved by preaching officers (expectants excepted), and that wee shall not disturb each others congregations by imposing on them preachers unordain'd, and that we will use our endeavour that noe offence bee given by the preaching of mere gifted men.

VI.—Wee doe also agree to preach in each other's congregations, and to meet together for advice as occasion requires.

VII.—That cases of offence bee heard and determined by a meeting of delegates equally chosen on both sides.

VIII.—That wee will lay to heart all our unnecessary distances and unbrotherly carriages one towards another, and engage in this accomodation in all unfeigned love and stedfast resolution, pray one with and for another, and lay aside to our utmost all words and carriages that may violate or præjudice our Christian communion.

IX.—Wee concurring in these things doe promise to comunicate the same to others that may bee concerned, that soe after our next meeting (which is to be on the 4th Thursday in September next) there may bee an acting according to this agreement.

X.—These things we agree unto, reserving to ourselves each of us our principles.

Richard Herrick.	Henry Newcome.	Jeremy Marsden.
Henry Root.	Robert Eaton.	William Colburn.
Samuell Eaton.	John Jaques.	Edmund Richardson.
John Angier.	Joshua Stockport.	Richard Birch.
John Harrison.	Michaell Bristoe.	Robert Hyde.
John Tildsley.	Thomas Jollie.	James Johnson.
Thomas Smallwood.	James Jackson.	Thomas Hammond.

VI.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE MINISTERS MENTIONED IN THESE MINUTES.

Allen, Anthony, presented himself for ordination at the June classical meeting, 1648, upon a call from the people of Ouston in Lincolnshire (see Meetings of October and November). Ordained, probably at Manchester, 22nd November, 1648. There is absolutely no information forthcoming with regard to him. If he survived the Restoration he probably conformed, as he does not appear in Calamy. Ouston was a parish in the Isle of Axholme, near Epworth, but "there is no mention of Allen in Archdeacon Stonehouse's *Isle of Axholme*, nor in the local histories of the Isle of Axholme including the parish of Ouston." There are no transcripts or registers for this parish during the Commonwealth period at Ouston or in the Diocesan registry at Lincoln.

Allen, Isaac, son of William Allen of Sheldon, in the county of Warwick. Baptized 24th May, 1595. Queen's College, Oxon., B.A. February $161\frac{8}{9}$, M.A. Oriel $161\frac{8}{11}$. His first benefice was probably Oldham (Bestwick-cum-Oldham, Walker, vol. ii. p. 183). He appears here in 1619 and 1626, in which year there is an entry of the baptism of his son William. While here he married his first wife, Anne Ashton (for whose descent see *Local Gleanings*, vol. i. pp. 119-244). It may be that he stayed at Oldham until his presentation to the rectory of Prestwich. His institution to the latter, on the presentation of Edmund Ashton of Chadderton, is dated variously August 3rd and September 27th, 1632. His predecessor, John Langley, was buried 16th August, 1632. Compounded for first fruits on the 8th October. From this period until his sequestration in 1646 he was a zealous advocate of the authority of the King and the bishops. He paid the assessment for shipmoney in 1635

(£2 7*s.* 0*d.*), and in the contribution of the clergy of the diocese of Chester, in aid of the war against the Scots, he gave the large sum of £12, the largest amount paid in the Manchester Deanery, and at a time when Heyrick and others refused to give anything. In connexion with this subject Nathan Walworth writes, on the 21st June, 1639, to the warden of Ringley Chapel:—"If the bishop and Mr. Allen contend with you, fight with them . . . I am sure you are twenty to one" (Walworth *Correspondence*, p. 60). His sequestration followed, as a matter of course, on the success of the parliament. He was questioned before a commission in 1645, and suffered sequestration. The following letters relating to it have not, I think, been hitherto published:—

(Plundered Ministers' *MS.*, fol. 213.)
10th September, 1646.

Whereas, the rectory of the parishe churche of Prestwiche, in the county of Lancaster, is sequestered from Mr. Allen for his delinquency, it is ordered that the said rectory shall from henceforth stand sequestred to the use of Toby Furnes, a godly and orthodox divine, and approved so to be by the divines appointed by ordinance of parliament for approbation of ministers in the said county, who is hereby appointed forthwith to officiate the cure of the said church as rector, and to preach diligently to the parishioners there.

To the right hon^ble^ Committee of Lords and Commons for sequestracions.[1]

The humble petition of Isaacke Allen, clerke, pastor of Prestwich, in the county of Lancaster, *humbly sheweth* that whereas your petitioner hath beene called in question before your honours for sundrye matters touching delinquencie or disaffection to parliamentary proceedings, at the instance of some of his parishioners who have bene ever esteemed well affected to the parliament. And whereas, upon the examination of severall witnesses, according to your honours' order in that behalf, it plainely appeareth that the said matters objected against him were at such tyme as your petitioner was under the power of the commissioners of arraye. And that your petitioner hath since that tyme declared his good affection to the parliament, not onely in subscribing fourty pounds upon the propositions of parliament, and maintaining both horse and foote for the parliament's service, in all to the value of £300 or thereabouts, but also in taking the Solemn League and Covenant.

Your petitioner's most humble suit & request is that your honours would be pleased to discharge him from further trouble touching the premises and your petitioner (as in dewty he is bounde) will not faile to pray for your honours' healthe and happinesse long to continue.

Isaack Allen.

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 81.

For his very loving coson Captayne James Assheton at Chatterton,
these with hast and care.[1]

Cosen,

Because of Mr. Ashhurst's absence, who is now gone into Scotl[d], and for want [of] the agreement betwixt your uncle Allen and his parishyoners, I know not how to effect the desyne for the clearing of his delinquencie, & I am sorrie that you have promised him so much as you have done. Lett it bee your care to procure a coppie of their agreement and send it upp to me, & then you shall heare further from me. . . .

Your very loving cosen,
Raphe Assheton.

6th Feb[rie], $164\frac{6}{7}$.

Walker asserts that he suffered imprisonment. On his testimony alone the statement is worth little.

It is plain, however, that his sequestration from his benefice was confirmed, for in the years 1647-9 he occurs as preacher at Littleborough in the confines of the second classis. There are various notices of him in the records of the proceedings of the Bury Classis that show the trouble he caused them.

July 22, 1647. Mr. Allen, preacher at Littlebrough, sent unto to give account why he has exercised his ministry in a constant course within the precincts of this classical Presbytery without approbation of this classis.

Jan., $164\frac{7}{8}$. That Mr. Allen send for a copy of his approbation from the assembly of Divines in London, and shew the same to the classe at their next meeting.

August, 1648. Mr. Allen is respited till the next meeting to give a finall resolution whether hee stay att Littlebrough or noe, by reason of some motions of his returne to Prestwich.

At the October meeting in 1648 he declared his intention of not staying at Littleborough, and was in consequence inhibited from exercising his ministry there. The inhabitants petitioned for a six months' suspension of this inhibition, which the classis provisionally agreed to, but no further mention of him occurs in the records. His uncertainty here was caused by various other proposals of removal, which will be found noticed in the proceedings of the first classis—as *e.g.*, to Oldham, *supra* March, $164\frac{6}{7}$; Salford (April, 1647). On the departure of Toby Furness from Prestwich, he returned and attempted to regain possession of his rectory, but the classis would not admit him unless he gave satisfaction for his notorious delinquency (see minutes for May and June,

[1] Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxxii. p. 83.

1649). By February, $16\frac{49}{50}$, John Lake was settled at Prestwich, and it was probably shortly after this that Allen migrated to Yorkshire. The only information with regard to this part of his life is got from Heywood's *MSS.* "At Rippondon, was ould Mr. Allen who had been parson of Prestwich, a solid substantial preacher, who had been turned out in war time for not taking the covenant, he found shelter there; they loved him well, allowed him a competent maintainence, frequently preached to them at Halifax exercise. When the king came in in 1660 he was restored to Prestwich, lived and died there." Part of this notice is inaccurate, but the main statement is confirmed by Walker, "but whether it were by connivance or settlement I know not." No information is now discoverable with regard to this at either Halifax or Ripponden. It is likely that he stayed here till 1656, when the resignation of Nathaniel Rathband, which certainly took place in that year or slightly before, made possible his return to Prestwich. His re-entry was opposed by the classis, but it is very evident that he retained possesssion of his rectory (see the minutes for August, 1656, *seq.*). His return gave a leader to the opposition to the classis. He was doubtless the compiler of the papers which passed between the classis and the "gentlemen," and which were subsequently published under the title "Excommunicatio excommunicata" (see note on *Censures of the Church*, *supra*). He died in the possession of Prestwich Church, and was buried there 21st February, $16\frac{59}{60}$. His will was proved at P.C.C., 7th November, 1664. He was twice married—first, to Anna (see above), buried at Prestwich, October 17th, 1634; second, to Elizabeth . . . buried at Prestwich, April 7th, 1661.

For Allen's descendants, see Dugdale's *Visitation*, p. 2.

Ambrose, Isaac (see meetings of August, 1648, and December, 1659). His biography is given by Mr. Bailey in the *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*, also in Halley's *Lanc.*, pp. 382-6. As to the outline of facts there is little to be added. Born, 1604; entered at Brasenose College, Oxon., 1621; B.A., $162\frac{4}{5}$; curate of Castleton, Derbyshire, 1627; one of the four King's preachers for Lancashire, 1631, residing at Garstang; vicar of Preston, 1640; removed to Garstang, 1654; ejected thence, and died at Preston. It is necessary to refer to two points. (1) Date of death. For some time this has been debateable. In Roger Lowe's diary there

is an entry under date July 17, 1664, "Mr. Ambrose preached." In his note on the passage, Mr. Bailey held that it necessitated an alteration of the accepted date of death, but in the article above quoted Mr. Bailey returns to the date $166\frac{3}{4}$. The matter is put beyond dispute by an entry in the diary of John Angier, under date January 31st, $166\frac{3}{4}$, in the Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxiii. p. 433 :—

"$166\frac{3}{4}$, January 23. Rev^{d} Mr. Ambrose was in the Street at Preston at 7 of the clock at night, and dead before 8.

"Oh, what a sudden translation! It came to me January 29th from Manchester. It is reported that the night before he dreamed he was going to heaven, and the angels spread out their arms and embraced and bid him welcome to heaven."

(2) His descent. The assertion of his descent from the family at Lowick is taken from Wood. Dr. Halley doubted it, but Mr. Bailey has accepted the view of Wood. The only certain point seems to be that he was of Lancashire and plebeian origin. I advance the following only as plausible :—In 1622 a Mr. Ambrose was vicar of Ormskirk (Rec. Soc., vol. xii. p. 65). It appears from Heywood's *Diaries* that this man was called Isaac. Speaking of his father, Oliver says "Taylour's living he let goe to Mr. Isaac Ambrose of Ormskirk for £140 which he owed him, and 'tis his for ever" (*Diaries*, vol. i. p. 21). The similarity of name is at any rate suggestive.

Under the Presbyterian organisation of the county Ambrose was a member of the 7th Classis, and, probably on account of his residence at Preston, he played a very prominent part in the Provincial Assembly which met there. He several times acted as moderator, and on the occasion of the order of the synod requiring two ministers to preach in the Fylde country from the classes successively, the ordering of the rotation was left to "Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Brownsword of Preston" (Bury Minutes, December 16th, 1656). This latter entry makes it doubtful whether Mr. Bailey correctly stated the date of Ambrose's removal to Garstang. (See Fishwick's *Garstang*, and *Local Gleanings*, vol. i. pp. 18, 263.)

Angier, John, senior (see O. Heywood's *Life*, and Mr. W. E. A. Axon in *Dict. Nat. Biog.*). Born 18th October, 1605, at Dedham, Essex. Emanuel College, Cambridge, June 29th, "Episcopally ordained by

Lewis Bayley without subscription, yet continued a nonconformist to the ceremonies." September, 1630, Ringley Chapel, twice suspended there; on the second occasion (September, 1631—March, 1632) "with no hope of restoration." 1632, Denton. Died, September 1st, 1677.

One point of his character has not been properly estimated—his leaning towards Independency, especially in his earlier days.

"He had a tender respect for Congregational brethren, so they had, at least many of them, a great reverence for him. . . . I have often heard him say that in a little time whoever lived would see that much of the government of Christ would be carried on in particular congregations among themselves" (O. Heywood, vol. i. p. 532). "Some thought he was not very thoroughly satisfied what course to steer before he went up [to London, 1646]. However that was he came down satisfied to join with his brethren in setting up the Presbyterial government, but for all that was very moderate towards all that he judged moderate of the Congregational way" (Ad. Mart., p. 64). "If I may trust mine old memory in a thing of so remote a distance, I heard him say he hoped never to trouble the classis with regard to any controversy concerning his own congregation so long as he lived" (*ib.*, p. 74). As a matter of fact he does not appear to have done so, as a perusal of the minutes will show. The point is stated emphatically in Taylor and Eaton's "Defence of Sundry Positions," 1645: "Such a church which consists of the members of many other true churches hath formerly been without exception in the days of the prelates . . . It cannot be denied but Mr. Angier's church at Denton in Lancashire hath of long time been such." In his "Rejoynder" (1647), Hollingworth, "I am informed, and in part know, that these churches [Denton and Wirral] were not gathered separated churches, for those members of other churches did not refuse communion in parish assemblies . . . they did not exclude all that were not visible saints . . . they aimed not at a purer church but a better ministry."

It would be interesting if more light could be thrown on this subject, but it hardly seems likely there will be. In the epistle dedicatory to his "Help to Better Hearts," Angier says: "In nine or ten years at Denton [*i.e.* 1632-1641] I preached not above two single years, to my best remembrance, without interruption, and in that time was twice excommunicated." Martindale indicates his views in these words: "To

try whether men of peaceable spirits under both persuasions [Independent and Presbyterian] might not hold communion sweetly together, notwithstanding their different apprehensions." But it seems to me that this was the attitude of his mature and later life rather than of his early ministry during the prelatical time.

In the Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxiii. p. 433, there are extracts from Angier's diary. The extracts are prefaced by these words of Canon Raines :

"Extracts from a small closely written diary of the Rev. John Angier, minister of Denton, Manchester parish, beginning with July, 1662, and ending August, 1676. It was formerly in the possession of Mr. Harrison of Bankfield, in the Fylde, and lent to me by Rev. W. Thornber of Blackpool," June, 1863.

What has become of this diary?

Angier, John, junior, the only son of the well-known John Angier of Denton. Baptized at the parish church of Boston, Lincolnshire, June 13th, 1629. Went to school at Manchester, and was there on the 23rd March, 164½. Admitted to Emanuel College, Camb., July 24th, 1647. It seems likely that he was expelled from Cambridge, for it is certain that he went to America and took his degree at the Harvard University. The facts of the wildness of his youth, and the pain it caused to his father, are well known. "His son, his only son devoted to God, not only in the Christian profession but ministerial function, miscarrying under such education with such aggravations . . . though he had paid £400 for his son in a few years, to the injury of his own estate, he saw it did no good." "How did it rejoice his sister's heart to read his penitential letters from New England when there appeared any hope of his doing well (O. Heywood, vol. i. pp. 552, 575). He seems to have gone to America with a "Cousin Edmund." The first entry concerning him at Harvard is in the Steward's books, charges for commons and lodgings for the quarter ending 13-1-165$\frac{9}{1}$, commencement charges for B.A. degree 9-7-1653, commencement charges for M.A. degree 7-7-1655 (Sibley's *Harvard Graduates*, vol. i. 326-8). Between the last two dates there are several entries for "discontinuances." Sibley supposes that "he either paid for discontinuance each quarter as a prerequisite to obtaining his second degree, or his connexion with his college continued through the entire period, and that he was absent a

great part of the time. If this absence was in consequence of ill-health he may have died early." If Sibley had been aware of Angier's character and career he might not have been so charitable is his judgment. On the occasion of the "*questiones philosophiæ discutiendæ* 1655, *decimo quarto sextilis* 1655," the suggestive entry occurs "Oratio Demegorica, Johannis Angeir."

He was married in New England to Hannah, daughter of William Aspinall, and returned with her to England sometime between 1655 and 1657. (Mr. Earwaker's extracts from the Dukinfield Registers.)

The notices of him in these minutes are interesting. He presented himself for ordination in July, 1657 (see the meetings under that date and subsequently). The classis scrupled his ordination until he had given acknowledgment of his miscarriage. He was ordained to Ringley on the 13th of August, 1657, and appears in the classis as representing Ringley from September, 1657, onwards, quite to the close of the classical records. It seems almost certain that he continued at Ringley at the Restoration, and conformed in 1662, for on the 2nd June, 1663, he was presented by the King to the vicarage of Deane (Lancashire), from which Tilsley had been ejected. His successor at Deane was Richard Hatton, who was presented by the King on the 22nd November, 1673, and it seems likely that Angier had continued at Deane up to that time, and died there. This seems to be indicated by an entry in the Raines *MSS.* vol. xxvii. p. 226 :—

"6 June, 1678. Tuition of Mary Elizabeth & Margaret Angier, children of Mr. John Angier, clerke, vicar of Deane, C° Lanc., dec^d.— Granted by the R.D.'s Court, Chester."

The entry of the death of his wife has been extracted from the Dukinfield Registers by Mr. Earwaker :—

"April, 1699. Died—Hannah, widow of Cousin John Angier. Died the beginning of April. She was the daughter of Mr. W^m Aspinall, and married in New England. Came to England, 1656, in the Spring, and died, I suppose, at Wigan."

The following extract from the Register at Deane was contained among Mr. Bailey's papers :—

"Nomina sepultorum apud templum hoc parochiale nostrum de Deane ab anno Salutis nostra 1663 et a mense Augusti in eodem anno ex quo tantum Registrum Ecclesiæ a manibus præcedentis clerici parochialis

recepi ego Johannes Angeir vicarius de Deane præsentatus a serenissimo regi Carolo Secundo dat decimo octavo die Junii, anno regni decimo quarto annoque D^ni^ 1663, a reverendo in Christi patre et domino, domino Georgio permissione divina Cestrien. Episcopo, Institutus vicesimo die ejusdem mensis Junii prædicti et a reverendo viro Roberto Hartley vicario de Eccles legitime inductus decimo quarto die mensis Julii anno D^ni^ milesimo sexcentesimo sexagesimo tertio."

Did Angier renounce his Presbyterian ordination?

Aspinall, Thomas, presented himself for ordination at the January meeting, 165$\frac{4}{5}$, *q.v.*; ordained on 28th February following. The minutes speak of his fair call to Ashley chapel. This phrase is not used here in the ordinary sense, as Ashley was a domestic chapel attached to Ashley Hall, Bowdon, then in the possession of Thomas Brereton, Esq. The same words are used in the case of Joseph Birch (*infra*), who was ordained to Ashley, 1659 (March 30), on the desire of Mr. Brereton "to have him for his chaplain." Aspinall may have stayed at Ashley till 1659, but all subsequent traces of him are lost. It may be that he went to Newcastle (see Newcome's *Diary*, p. 61), but nothing is discoverable with regard to him there. It is also possible that he is the Aspinal mentioned in Heywood's works (vol. i. p. 584), as preaching for his father February 28, 1677. See also Surtees Society, vol. l. p. 414; Gateshead Churchwardens' Books, 167$\frac{5}{6}$: "One pint of sack when Mr. Astell preached, 1*s.* 2*d.*"

Bagshaw, William (see meeting July 13, 1658), well known as "the Apostle of the Peak," born in the parish of Tideswell, 17th January, 162$\frac{7}{8}$; of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; held the chapel of Warmhill (Tideswell parish), and subsequently of Attercliffe in Yorkshire; ordained at Chesterfield, July 1, 1650; presented to Glossop 1651; ejected 1662; preached under the indulgence of both Charles II. and James II. Died April, 1, 1702. (See Ashe's funeral sermon on him, 1704; also Mr. Grosart's *Life*.)

On one of the many hundred loose letters found among Mr. J. E. Bailey's papers was one bearing this interesting reference: "A very slight allusion to Mr. Ambrose occurs in the journal of my ancestor William Bagshaw, generally designated the Apostle of the Peak."

At the time Bagshaw was preaching for the Manchester classis, he was in high repute in Derbyshire, although young. This is evinced by a resolution of the Wirksworth classis. Glossop, where Bagshaw then resided, was not a member of the Wirksworth classis, but was itself the meeting place (alternating with Bakewell) for the High Peak classis. Notwithstanding this, Bagshaw was well enough known to be in request outside his own classis. "It is this day noted the Mr. William Bagshaw, pastor of the congregation at Glossoppe, in the countie of Darbie, be desired to be assistant to this classis as often as he can convenientlie, and that the said Mr. Bagshaw be also desired to preach the next classicall meeting at Wirksworth." (Wirksworth Minutes, 20th March, $165\frac{4}{5}$.)

Baine, John (see meetings of August, September, and October, 1658), ordained to "Acam," Yorkshire. Laureated at Edinburgh, April, 1639. Acomb is a parish near York, but the registers of the parish were greatly damaged by fire fifty years ago, and are therefore of no avail. There is no local record of him at Acomb, nor any mention of him in any of the more general sources.

Bankes, Mr. James (see meeting of December 8, 1657). The matter concerning Bankes will be found fully explained in the Bury Minutes, together with the above reference.

(Bury Minutes, July 18, 1653.) "Information being given to the class of a published intent to have the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Bradshaw chappel, administred by Mr. Bankes, who at present preacheth there, it is concluded that (a Committee) do repair to Bradshaw Hall and endeavour, both with Mr. Bradshaw and Mr. Bankes, to prevent the inconvenience of a promiscuous sacrament, and in case they cannot prevail with them, Mr. Harper is, by this classe, desired and authorised to interpose in the said chappel on the day appointed, for the prevention thereof."

Bankes was a royalist occupying a position in the second classis like that assumed by John Lake in the Manchester classe. The objection against a promiscuous sacrament was, that by it known malignant royalists were admitted without expressions of sorrow for their malignancy.

At the next meeting, Mr. Harper . . . "returned an answer concerning Mr. Bankes, now preacher at Bradshaw Chappell, who, being desired in a brotherly way (1) of his call into the ministrey, (2) of his call unto that place, (3) of that course he was about to take in a promiscuous admitting of all to the Sacrament: he gave a light and not satisfactory answer to the twoe first, slighting also the power of the classe; and concerning the third, expressed his resolution to goe on in the promiscuous admittance." Hereupon, Mr. Tilsley was deputed to confer with the first class "since they had to do latly in a case of like nature, touching Mr. Lake of Ouldham." No entry of any such conference occurs in the Manchester Minutes, nor does the sequel of the affair appear in the Bury *MS.* It is plain, however, that Bankes was expelled from Bradshaw chapel and succeeded by James Bradshaw, who got himself into trouble with the class by allowing the expelled man to preach, with the result stated in these minutes. *(Supra.)*

Very little is known with regard to him otherwise. He appears in the Prestwich Registers amongst other ministers celebrating marriages, 1657-60 (Booker, p. 159), as "minister of God's word at Bradshaw," probably retaining the title in defiance.

In *Local Gleanings*, vol. ii. p. 108, a Mr. Banckes occurs among the schoolmasters at Leyland school.

There is also an entry of the name in the Northowram Register (p. 265):—

"Mr. Banks, parson of High Church in Hull, died Nov. 3, 1714." (For this man see also *Palatine Note Book*, vol. iii. p. 274.)

Baxter, Nathaniel (see meetings of November, 1659, and three subsequent meetings), ordained Wednesday, 15th February, $16\frac{5}{6}\frac{9}{0}$. For an account of him see Calamy, vol. ii. p. 369. Born *c.* 1634 (?), admitted Jesus College, Cambridge, May 9, 1653, "Nathaniel Baxter, Cheshire, pensioner" (*Palatine Note Book*, vol. iii. p. 267). At the time of his ordination he was already minister of Michael-le-Wyre, but had probably been so only for a short time, as he boarded with Newcome after leaving the university. (Newcome's *Autob.*, p. 77.) According to Calamy, after his ejection in 1662, he removed into Yorkshire, being first chaplain to Sir William Middleton, and subsequently settling at

Beauchief Abbey, near Sheffield. But it would appear from references in Newcome's *Diary*, that he went at first into Cheshire, his native county. (See *Diary*, pp. 94, 183, 190.)

There is remarkable discrepancy in the testimony as to his birth. In the minutes he is described as about twenty-five in $16\frac{59}{60}$. According to Calamy (account, p. 570), he was sixty-five in 1697; while the entry in the Northowram Register is as follows (p. 90):—

"Mr. Matthew [*sic* for Nathaniel] Baxter of Attercliffe, a N.C. minister, dyed September 12, 1697, aged 60."

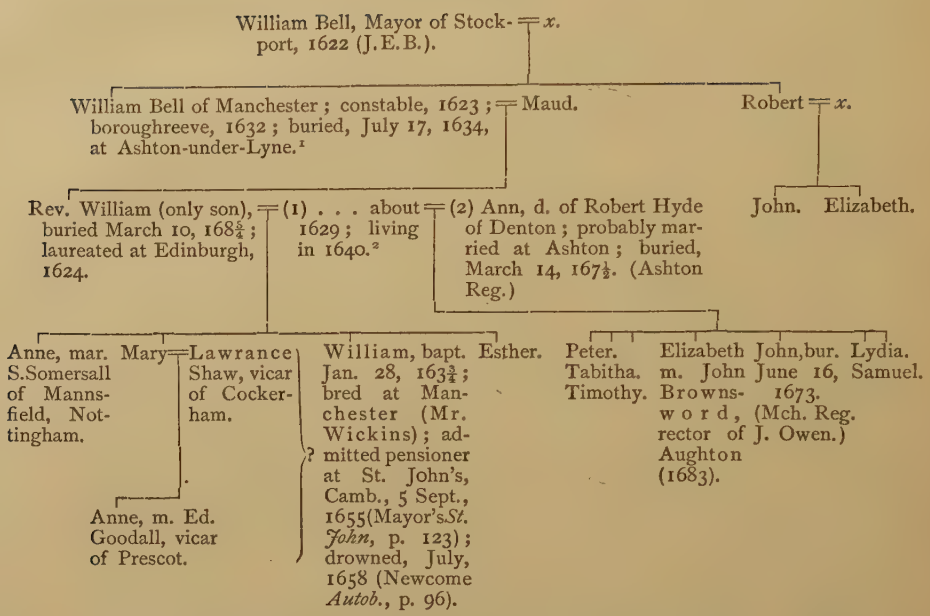
The following is copied from a letter found amongst Mr. Bailey's papers: "In the journal of my ancestor Wm. Bagshaw, generally designated the Apostle of the Peak, on 16 Sept., 1697, he says that he was told of the death of the Rev. Nathaniel Baxter of Attercliffe, adding 'tis near forty years since I heard him preach at Manchester. I remember his applying to Christ that passage of Jonah 'cast him into the sea.' He was employed near Ambrose of Garstang, who, as I heard, drew him to his length (or shortness) in the use of the liturgy. They were both turned out." (See his name in the minutes of the United Brethren).

For notices of Baxter in Yorkshire see Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. ii. pp. 38, 113; vol. iii. pp. 141-2.

In the fourth vol., *ibid.*, there are several entries (pp. 212, 235, 296, 313) relating to a Nathaniel of date later than 1700, which seems to agree ill with Calamy's assertion (continuation, p. 571), "His son Nathanael lived to go through his studies and to compose a sermon, but never preached it."

Bell, William. (See meeting of June 12th, 1660.)

Much important and interesting material concerning him has recently been brought together by Mr. Earwaker in his edition of the *Manchester Court Leet Records.* These notices, with others by Mr. John Owen, Glover (*History of Ashton*), and Prof. Mayor (*Admissions to St. John*), may be succinctly summed up in the following table (the ordering the names of William's children is, in part, quite conjectural):—


William Bell, Mayor of Stockport, 1622 (J.E.B.). = x.
William Bell of Manchester; constable, 1623; boroughreeve, 1632; buried, July 17, 1634, at Ashton-under-Lyne.[1] = Maud.
Robert = x.
Rev. William (only son), buried March 10, 168¾; laureated at Edinburgh, 1624.
(1) . . . about 1629; living in 1640.[2]
(2) Ann, d. of Robert Hyde of Denton; probably married at Ashton; buried, March 14, 167½. (Ashton Reg.)
John.
Elizabeth.
Anne, mar. S.Somersall of Mannsfield, Nottingham.
Mary
Lawrance Shaw, vicar of Cockerham.
Anne, m. Ed. Goodall, vicar of Prescot.
William, bapt. Jan. 28, 163¾; bred at Manchester (Mr. Wickins); admitted pensioner at St. John's, Camb., 5 Sept., 1655 (Mayor's *St. John*, p. 123); drowned, July, 1658 (Newcome *Autob.*, p. 96).
Esther.
Peter.
Tabitha.
Timothy.
Elizabeth m. John Browns-word, rector of Aughton (1683).
John, bur. June 16, 1673. (Mch. Reg. J. Owen.)
Lydia.
Samuel.

The will of the Rev. William Bell is dated 9th February, 168¾; proved at Chester, 12th June. (See long extracts from it and account of Bell by Mr. Earwaker, *Manchester Court Leet Records*, vol. vi. p. 233; also Glover's *History of Ashton*, appendix.) The will illustrates the large territorial possessions of the testator.

The first notice of him, beyond the above, is in the parliamentary ordinance for ordination (25th November, 1644, C. J., vol. iii. p. 784), where he is named one of the *pro temp.* ordainers for the county. Before this he may have been an assistant minister at Ashton, where he certainly resided, but if so it could not have been after the year 1642, at which time a George Morrison was to all appearances the assistant. It seems more likely that the title "clerk" given him in the Ashton registers, was due rather to his officiating as King's preacher in the county. (See *Local Gleanings*, vol. i. p. 8.) He occurs as "of Huyton"

[1] See Earwaker's *Manchester Court Leet Records*, vol. iii. pp. 37, 68, 121, 141, 170, 192; and Earwaker's note, p. 217.

[2] Oldham Registers, p. 101: Wm. Bell duxit Ann Walker, April xx. 1629 (?)

(in the fifth classis) in the parliamentary ordinance of October 2, 1646. While at Huyton he was still king's preacher. "As alsoe eighty pounds deducted from the impropriation which is in the hands of Mr. Wm. Bell the pastor, and is paid to the said Mr. Bell as minister itinerant within this county." (Record Society, vol. i. p. 75). He does not appear to have refused the engagement as there are no notices of him in the State Papers, and his signature is wanting to the "Agreement of the People," yet Martindale (p. 105) speaks of his writings against the Independents.

Very few notices of him occur after his ejection. He evidently returned to his estate and resided at Sinderland Hall, Audenshaw (Ashton parish), busying himself with its administration (see *Manchester Court Leet Records*, vol. v. p. 212, 250). Under the Indulgence of 1672 he preached at Huyton, and may have remained there after its withdrawal until his death. Calamy gives 1681 as the date of his death. The proper date is preserved on a brass plate in Huyton church, the inscription of which has been several times reprinted (see it in Earwaker's *Manchester Court Leet Records*, vol. vi. p. 233). All lists of his works are probably as yet imperfect. (See Earwaker's *Manchester Court Leet Records, supra;* Fishwick's *Lanc. Library*, p. 384.)

The following extracts from the Plundered Ministers' *MSS.* may be of interest:—

Aug. 18, 1645.

That the yearly rent of £50 be paid out of the rectory of Hyton impropriate to the Lord Molyneux, sequestered from him for the increase of the maintainence of Mr. Wm. Bell, vicar thereof, the said vicarage being worth but 20 marks per annum, & that it be reported to the house.

4 July, 1646.—(Order of both houses reiterating above.)

Nov. 13, 1650.

Whereas this committee have, the 26th of December, 1649, granted £50 a yeare out of the impropriate rectory of Ormeskirke in the county of Lankester, sequestered from the Earl of Derby, delinquent, for increase of the maintainence of such ministers as the committee should approve of, to officiate in the chapel of Elswick, in the said county. It is ordered that the said £50 a year be paid unto Wm. Bell, hereby settled minister of the said chapel, and the commissioners for sequestracons in the said county are required to pay (etc.).

May 26, 1651.

(Recital of order of 26 Dec^{r}, 1649 & of order of 13 Nov^{r} last) "That the same should be paid unto Mr. Wm. Bell, a godly & orthodox Divine, then settled minister of the said chapel. Now for that the said Mr. Bell hath officiated in the said chapel ever since the 26^{o} of Dec^{r}, 1649 aforesaid; it is ordered that the arrears . . . due since the said time be paid unto the said Mr. Bell, & the Commissioners, etc.

Oct. 15, 1652.

Whereas this committee have, the 26th of Decemb, 1649, granted £50 a yeare out of the profits of the impropriate rectory of Ormeskirk, in the county of Lancaster, . . . for increase of the maintainence of the minister of the chappell of Elswicke, . . . and have the 13 Nov., 1650, ordered that the same should be paid unto Wm. Bell, then settled minister of the said chappell, and the said Mr. Bell now complayneth that the said augmentacon is become void. It is therefore ordered that the same be discharged, and that in lieu thereof the yearly sum of £50 be paid out of the surplus of the profits of the impropriate tythes of Fall, Fulwood, Broughton, Whittle-le-Wood, & Cuerden, in the said county, sequestered from Sir Thomas Tildesley, Ralph Banister, William Osbalston, & John Woodcocke, recusants. And the Commissioners for sequestracons in the said county, are required to pay the said £50 a year to the said Wm. Bell, etc.

28 June, 1654.

The like order for Mr. Wm. Bell of Hyton . . . upon an order from the Commissioners for approbation [of ministers] of 20 June instant, directed to Lanc^{r}.

[Viz. : Order for payment of augmentation settled by order of the Commissioners for approbation of public preachers, 3 June, 1654.]

Benson, Richard (see meetings of March 16th, $164\frac{6}{7}$, April, May ; see also Oxford Registers for Richard Benson—matriculated 1603, B.A. $160\frac{8}{7}$), appears as the minister representing Chorlton from the first meeting of the class to his death. There is mention of a Richard Benson in the *History of Bispham* (Chet. Soc., new series, vol. x. p. 72): "Bapt. June xv., 1599, Richard, son of Henry Benson." The only other possible reference to him that has occurred is in Mr. Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. i. p. 403 : "Payments to ministers in the parish of Stockport—To Mr. Benson, minister at Norburie Chappel, Jan. 25th, $164\frac{5}{6}$, £8 0*s.* 0*d.*"

He succeeded to Chorlton on the dismissal of Mr. Pollett, whose name is of great interest in connexion with the Bury Minutes (see also Walker, vol. i. p. 40 ; vol. ii. p. 421). In the Visitation of 1650 he is

mentioned as a "painful godly preaching minister, with some maintainence out of the sequestrations, but all orders expiring at midsummer, 1650, there is no means known for him but the contribucion of the people."

The Stockport Registers contain these references (*Local Gleanings*, vol. i. p. 9):—"Benson, Richard, the minister of God's word, was buried at Statford chapel in the chancel, the seven and twentieth day of May, 1651. Jane, the wife of Richard Benson, minister of God's word, was buried the 18th day of December, being Fryday, 1657."

Bentley, Ely (see meetings of April, May, June, 1653), ordained June to the church of Halifax, Yorkshire; born, 1626, in Sowerby in York; died July 31st, 1675 (Calamy's account, p. 804; Hunter's *Heywood*, p. 270); a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. According to Calamy he must have been assisting Mr. Booth at Rochdale almost a year before he applied for ordination. He succeeded Booth on the death of the latter in 1657, and was ejected from Halifax in 1662, being replaced by Dr. March (see the story in Hunter's *Heywood*, p. 126).

"He fled before the five-mile act," and the *Diaries* of O. Heywood abound in references to his movements:—"May 16, 1666. Visited Mr. Bentley at Bingley, whose condition is sadder than mine, for he is in the same house with some because of whom he cannot comfortably serve God, nor hath he the free exercise of his religion as he desire and wisheth for any house of his own" (*ibid.*, vol. i. p. 225).

He appears to have stayed at Bingley till December, 1667 (*ibid.*, vol. i. p. 248), then at Flansel till 1671 (*ibid.*, vol. i. 284).

He received a licence under the Indulgence in 1672 (Northowram Register, p. 110):—

"Bentley, Eli (own house), Halifax, Presbyterian.
Timothy Bentley, Halifax, Presbyterian."

During this year of renewed life Oliver Heywood often notes in his *Diaries* visits to Halifax to hear Mr. Bentley preach (vol. i. p. 294, *seq.*). The friendship between the two had commenced at Cambridge. Bentley was one of the four ministers (Root, Heywood, and Dawson being the others) who started the meeting place at Quarry Hill, Sowerby, under the patronage of a Mr. Horton (*Diaries*, vol. i. p. 348; vol. iii. p. 132).

Eli had a brother Daniel Bentley, who was minister of Sowerby Bridge.

Birch, Joseph (see meetings of January and February, $165\frac{8}{9}$), born *c.* 1635; admitted to Gonville and Caius Colleges, 1654. "Birthplace [Manchester], father's name [Hugh]." Apparently probationing in Manchester, as he brought a testimonial of good life from there. Ordained 30th March, 1659, "to Ashley in Cheshire," *i.e.* as chaplain to Thomas Brereton, Esq. (see Aspinall *supra*). Rector of Pebmarsh (Archdeaconry of Middlesex) from 14th February, $166\frac{9}{1}$, to his death in 1674. His successor was appointed 7th April, 1674 (Newcourt, vol. ii. p. 466).

Bowker, Richard (*vide* meeting of February, $165\frac{2}{3}$, July and August, 1653), the son of John Bowker, grocer, of Manchester, born 1629; "bred at Manchester," under Mr. Paynter; admitted sizar at St. John's, Cambridge, 21st June, 1647, his tutor being Dominus Bowker.

He was ordained by the Classis in 1653 to Thornton (Thornton-on-the-Moors, Deanery of Chester). The editors of *Nonconformity in Cheshire* suppose that he went as assistant to Mr. Samuel Fisher (p. 167), and again that he was succeeded at Thornton by Fisher (p. 63). In either case his stay there was apparently not long. In 1657 he succeeded to Middlewich on the death of old Thomas Langley. It has been assumed that he was ejected from Middlewich, although Calamy notices no ejection from that place, and does not name Bowker. There is an entry in the registers "Lawrence Griffith, A.B., licensed 15th October, 1662" (*Nonconformity in Cheshire*, p. 167). It is possible, however, that Bowker may have removed or died. No further certain notice of him occurs. For a "Mr. Bowker, a minister in Lincolnshire, a famous preacher and forward man in the late times, but turning conformist hath been detracted above five years, etc.," see Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. iii. p. 189, *circa* $167\frac{1}{2}$. Roger Lowe's *Diary*, p. 23, "May, 1665, Lord's Day, Mr. Bowker preached" [at Ashton in Makerfield].

Bradshaw, James, of Wigan and Macclesfield. Born at Darcy Lever, 1613 or 1614 (see descent in Dugdale, p. 51). Matriculated at Oxford from Brasenose College, 9th December, 1631, ætat. 17; M.A.,

Brasenose. Occurs among the protestors of 164½ as minister de Turton, and of Bolton and Deane. Settled at Wigan as early as February, 164¾. On Hotham obtaining Wigan, James Bradshaw received a call to Macclesfield, some time before August, 1657 (see Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii. pp. 504-5). Nominated one of the ministers for ordaining in Lancashire, *pro temp.* (1644); was appointed a ministerial representative for the 4th Classis, 1646; signs agreement of the people, 164⅝; imprisoned in the year of the Scotch expedition, and released on his own bond of £400 (*State Papers*, November 1st, 1651).

After his ejectment from Macclesfield (1662), he preached occasionally at West Haughton (Dean parish) and at Bradshaw Chapel. Died, it is said, in May, 1683. (See, however, a long account of Bradshaw in Canon Bridgeman's *Wigan*, vol. iii. p. 461 *et seq.*)

Plundered Ministers' *MSS.*, 20th November, 1646.

Whereas, the rectory of the parish church of Wigan is sequestered from the bp. of Chester, and James Bradshaw, a godly and orthodox divine, is settled in the said church and the cure thereof. It is ordered that the said Mr. Bradshaw do continue to officiate the said cure as Rector, and preach diligently to the parishioners there; and that he shall have for his pains therein the parsonage house and gleab lands, and all the tithes, etc., till further orders shall be taken, together with all arrears of rents of the said rectory payable at or since Michaelmas last; the said Mr. Bradshaw paying out of the tithes, etc., such . . . sumes of money as are granted by ordinance of parliament to the Church of Holland, settled from the said Church of Wigan . . . and the further sum of £50 a year, formerly granted to the minister of the chapel of Billing, and the further sum of £50 a year, heretofore also granted to the minister of the chapel of Hindley, etc.

Bradshaw, James, of Hindley, probably the James Bradshaw of Ellenbrook of the minutes. Born at Hacking (parish of Wigan), 1635; died, 1702; educated at Bolton Grammar School—Corpus Christi College, Oxford, no degree; ordained in 4th Lancashire Classis (Warrington); occurs at Ellenbrook chapel between the dates February, 165¾, and April, 1657; ejected from Hindley, 1662. (For rest of life see Rev. Alex. Gordon's article in *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*)

Bury Minutes, *February 14th, 1649*: "Mr. Bradshaw, minister of Ellenbrook, appeared and promised to procure a certificate from the class whence he came."

Bridges, John, born, 1621; ordained, 15th April, 1647. At Sheffield he was one of the three assistant ministers (for an account of

the institution see Hunter's *Hallamshire*, p. 272), "an able and painful preacher with 40 marks for salary" (1650). He continued as third assis- at Sheffield, 1647-56, being succeeded by Matthew Bloom (see Newcome *Autob.*, under date January 5th, 1669).

Brierley, John, of Salford. Record Society, vol. xii. p. 68, Mr. Brereley, curate of Colne (1622); signs the Harmonious Consent, 1648, as "preacher of Salford"; mentioned in 1650 as having preached at Prestwich, and in 1651 as supplying the cure of Poulton-in-the-Fylde (Record Society, vol. i. pp. 14, 151).

Plundered Ministers' *MSS.*, May 5th, 1652.

By virtue of an act, etc., for payment of augmentations out of impropriations sequestered from Papists, etc., *ordered* that the yearly sum of £50 be paid out of the impropriate tythes of Poolton sequested from Thos Tildesley, Esq., delinquent, for increase of maintainence of John Brierley, minister of the church of Poolton, the present maintainence belonging to the said church not exceeding £27 a year, and the Commissioners for Sequestration are to see, etc.

Briggs (Jeremiah ?). Laureated at Edinburgh, 15th April, 1645; evidently proved contumacious to the Classis in matter of ordination, being frequently summoned in 1647. (See pp. 31 *seq.*)

Bury minutes :—

November, 1649: "Mr. Bridge of Edenfield to be sent for to give satisfaction to the class concerning their preaching without approbation of the classe."

December, 1649: Mr. Bridge appeared and desired he might proceed to ordination at the 1st classe where he had begun; ordered that the 1st classis be sent unto and enquiry made what proceedings have been made there, etc.

July, 1650: Ordered to be sent for again.

April 13th, 1657: Order repeated verbatim.

In 1658 he appears as assistant *pro tempore* to the Wirksworth Classis. Newcourt's *Repertorium*, Ridge Vicarage: "Jer. Briggs, 1664-1680 (?)."

Brocklehurst, John. Ordained, 1647, 9th February, being 28 years old; admitted to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 1637, from Nottingham; ordained to Heath, in Derbyshire, transferred to Barlborough,

1648 ; conformed, 1662 ; and retained the incumbency on the presentation of Dame A. Rodes ; died there 1682.

Browne, Robert, son of Robert Brown "of Beswicke Bridge" (*i.q.* the Robert Brown, chaplain of Manchester ?). Entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge, June 21st, 1651 ; B.A. 1654 ; M.A. 1667. He first appears in the minutes August, 1656, being then evidently at Salford. Newcome considered "his carriage to be nought, and that he was idle and studied not" ; and says that on the death of Meeke at Salford, Brown got an underhand presentation from Mr. Booth (see his account of the action of the classis, *Autobiog.* p. 91, and compare with the minutes here). The truth is not clear. In 1657 there was a question as to his removal to Stretford, but he still occurs as officiating at Salford without the consent of the classis up to July, 1659. Newcome, however, says that to shelve the difficulty he was recommended to Hoole by some ministers of the classis, "where he *several years* carried vainly and poorly, and was a reproach to us."

At the Restoration he conformed, was presented to Hoole by Martha Porter of Lamberhurst, 19th December, 1660, and in August, 1662, was made chaplain of Manchester, as successor to Mr. Richardson.

He was married at the Manchester church, 17th November, 1657, and apparently had a son Robert, who took the oath of allegiance in May, 1679, as Robert Brown, junior, clerk. It may be the latter, who was presented to Ashton-upon-Mersey in July, 1679, and died 1706. (See biography of Brownesword, William, *infra*).

Brownesword, Nathaniel, presented himself to ordination July, 1653, being then about 24 years of age ; ordained on August 10th to the church of Hickleton, in the county of York. The registers of Hickleton vicarage, near Doncaster, do not go back beyond 1694, and no other mention of the name occurs.

Brownesword, William (see Mr. Bailey in "Notes and Queries," vol. vi. Series ii. p. 22, and *Preston Guardian* "Sketches," July 17th, 1880). Occurs as pastor at Douglas Chapel, Lancashire, in 1648, signing the "Agreement of the People" and the "Harmonious Consent." Here he published his *Rome's Conviction* (Brit. Mus. E. 1474). Removed to

Hoole perhaps about 1658, where he published *The Quaker Jesuit* ($16\frac{58}{60}$). His removal to Kendal (being succeeded at Hoole by Robert Browne) would therefore fall in 1660, but in a letter of 1663, giving an account of his conforming, he speaks of having been five years in quiet possession at Kendal (*State Papers*, Dom., October 12th, 1663). He appears at Kendal as late as 1696. (See *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.*, xii. pt. vii. pp. 88, 334.)

Cawdrey, Zachary (see *Nonconformity in Cheshire*, p. 142), born 1626; school, Melton Mowbray; St. John's College, Cambridge, 1635; M.A. 1642; presented to Barthomley, in Cheshire, 1st April, 1649.

For his stout royalist proceedings as fellow of St. John's, in 1647, see Cooper's *Annals of Camb.*, vol. iii. p. 417, and *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.*, vi. pt. i. p. 202 *seq.*; vii. pt. i. It was in consequence of this that he was sequestered from Barthomley in 1649 (see *Hist. MSS. Com. Rep.*, vii. p. 105), being replaced by John Smith. Restored in 1660; died December, 1684.

At the Brit. Mus. are the following works by him: *A Discourse of Patronage*, 1675; *The Certainty of Salvation*, 1684 (funeral sermon on Lord Delamere). The Free Reference Library, King Street, Manchester, also possesses "*The Christian's Prize and Race*," 1680. Philip Henry also speaks of his book *Preparation for Martyrdom.*

Clayton, Leonard (see Abram's *Blackburn*, pp. 287-291), baptized 26th May, 1616, Blackburn; St. Mary Hall, Oxford; minister of Hyford, Yorkshire, 1645; Blackburn, 4th July, 1647; re-presented by the King 6th November, 1662; instituted rector of Stockport 1674; buried October 20th, 1677.

The following is the text of entries relating to him in the Plundered Ministers' *MSS.* :—

May 21, 1647.

Whereas, the vicarage of the parish church of Blackborne . . . is void by death, and in the gift of the Abp. of Canterbury, it is ordered that Leonard Clayton, a godly and orthodox divine, do forthwith officiate the cure of the said church, etc.

May 2, 1649.

Whereas, this committee taking notice that the parish church of Blackburne . . . being of large extent, and containing in it a market town and 4,000 communicants, and

that in regard of the greatness of the charge and the smallness of the meanes there (the vicarage thereof being worth but £50 a year) no minister would accept thereof, and the Rectory thereof being impropriate to the Comittee of Parliament, by whom the said revenues were then disposeable, who were desired to take such care for the setling of a competent maintainence out of the rents reserved to the said Abp. out of the said impropriations as might be a meet encouragement for a godly and orthodox divine, and it is now certified by Mr. Ed. Chamberlaine, one of the surveyors of the Bishoprick of Chester, that the late bishop of Chester did reserve the rent of £75 6*s.* 8*d. p.a.* out of the Rectory of Boulton . . . it is therefore . . . ordered that £50 be allowed out of the rent reserved to the said Bp. of Chester, to and for the increase of the maintainence of Leonard Clayton, the present minister of Blackburne, to be accounted from 21st May, 1647, and the trustees for the sale of bishops' lands are desired to issue their warrants, etc.

Clayton, Thomas, son of William Clayton, yeoman, of Little Harwood; born 1618; school at Blackburn; admitted St. John's, Cambridge, 12th October, 1635; offered himself for ordination February, 164$\frac{6}{7}$; ordained in March to Didsbury.

For an account of the provision made for him at Didsbury, see Booker, p. 55. In the minutes he appears at Didsbury up to June or October, 1649, but the Didsbury Register contains mention of his name up to 1651. In 1660 he was married at Chapel-en-le-Frith, being described as "sometime minister of Chapel-en-le-Frith."

Canon Raines' notes (vol. xix. p. 396) speak of him as dying 14th November, 1661, and being buried at Bolton (see *ibid.* for his marriages). This must, however, be incorrect, as he was alive in 1664 (Dugdale's *Visitation*), and Angier's *Diary* speaks of him as being imprisoned in January, 166$\frac{5}{6}$, for "occasional sermons."

Cole, William, probably the William Cole who was admitted to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 1637, from Northampton; B.A., 1640; minister of St. John's, Newcastle, 165$\frac{3}{4}$-1658 (see Surtees Soc., vol. l.). While at Newcastle he published a sermon, *David's Distress at the loss of Jonathan*, and was one of the five joint authors of *The Perfect Pharisee*, 1654.

In 1658 he succeeded Ambrose at Preston, and was ejected 1662, but afterwards conformed and became lecturer of Dedham, in Essex.

Coleburne, William, born 1635, son of Henry Coleburne, chandler, of Ratcliffe Bridge (and of Bury), Lancashire; school, private, at Bury,

Lancashire; admitted sizar St. John's, Cambridge, 8th May, 1652; presented himself for ordination, July, 1657, to the church of Denton (assistant to Angier), but immediately after moved for Ellenbrook (see minute 4, p. 27, where expunge "of Robert Browne"), and appears as representing it March, $165\frac{7}{8}$; conformed at the Restoration, but in Angier's *Diary* he appears as under arrest in July, 1663. (See Newcome *Autob.*, pp. 158, 302, for possible references to a grave miscarriage.) Occurs as minister of Newton, 1687; died there end of 1692; buried there 1693.

Constantine, Robert, third son of Thomas Constantine, rector of Taxall, and his wife Ann Downes (see Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii. p. 545); baptized 14th March, $161\frac{8}{9}$; educated at Glossop (where his widowed mother lived) under Mr. Greenby; matriculated in the third class at Glasgow, May, 1638 (Munimenta Univ. Glas., vol. iii. p. 92, Maitland Club). It is stated (Heywood's Registers, vol. iv. p. 324; Miall's *Congreg. in York.*, p. 231) that he was sometime minister of Birstall before removing to Oldham. If this is not an error, his ministration here must have preceded his ministration at "Fairfield and Buxtons," as it is certain that he came to Oldham from the latter place.

He was presented to the classis by the people of Oldham for approval, and appears as their minister up to October, 1650; his name is then absent for a time, but reappears March, $165\frac{4}{5}$. The intervening period covers his suspension for refusal of the Engagement and his quarrel with Lake (see note p. 135, and Appendix iii.). Canon Raines states that he was supposed to be put in by order of the Committee for Plundered Ministers, and that the Committee afterwards promised him £100 per annum out of the tithes of the parish, a promise which was not fulfilled (Raines *MSS.*, vol. xix. p. 113). These statements are doubtful. They seem to arise from a confusion of the two separate periods of Constantine's administration at Oldham. He was ejected in 1662; was living in Salford, 1671; obtained a license for Greenacres, 1672 (see Waddington's *Greenacres*), and was the founder of the Independent chapel at Greenacres, preaching at first in a thatched house. He continued at Greenacres till the death of his wife, March 29th, 1695, then removed to Manchester.

The entry of his marriage (5th January, $165\frac{7}{8}$) with Frances, the

daughter of Robert Shepley, the elder for Ashton, occurs in the Ashton Registers.

He died at Manchester, December 16th, 1699, and was buried at Oldham. For his only son, born November, 25th 1660, buried August 6th, 1683, see Newcome's *Autob.*, p. 308. He had also a daughter, married Ellis Rainshaw, apothecary of Manchester. (For an account of Constantine, see Bagshaw's *Spiritualibus Pecci.*)

Cope, Joseph, presented himself for examination January 5th, 164$\frac{7}{8}$, and found very insufficient. Nothing is known of him. He is not to be confused with the Joseph Cope, vicar of Sandbach in Cheshire, as the latter became vicar in 1644. (See *Nonconformity in Cheshire*, p. 143.)

Crompton, Thomas, of Astley, parish of Leigh, West Derby; born 1606; minister of Astley 1632; died January 17th, 1690; ejected 1662, yet apparently readmitted seven or eight years after, "reading a few prayers without subscribing." (For references to him, see Roger Lowe's *Diary.*)

To be distinguished from Thomas Crompton of Toxteth, who was born at Great Lever 1634; minister at Toxteth, 1657; died, September 2nd, 1699.

Davy, Mr. [*John?*] (see p. 27), disputed the succession to Ellenbrook with Coleburne in 1657. Mr. Bailey identifies John Davy (vicar of Frodsham, 1663) with a John Davy who entered Christ Church as a servitor 1st April, 1656.

The following seems to render this doubtful: "On 11th June, 1659, Mary, d. to Mr. John Davie of Manchester, clerk, born at *Morton* Hall, baptaized at Newton Chapel" (Manchester Registers).

Morton Hall was in the possession of Ed. Shacklock, the brother-in-law of John Davy, the vicar of Frodsham. The latter may, therefore, be identical with the John Davy who is described as "of Manchester, clerk," in 1641, and as chaplain in 1670.

Dury, David (see Calamy). Ordained 27th June, 1649, to Gorton; appears as minister there up to August, 1650; ejected from Honley

(Yorkshire), 1662. After his ejectment there are various notices of his movements in Yorkshire and Lancashire in Heywood's *Diaries* under the years 1663, 1665, 1668, 1678.

At what time he returned to Scotland is not clear. The entry of his burial occurs in the register of Greyfriars's Church, Edinburgh (February 16th, 1692).

Dury, John (see minutes, *supra*, note p. 304), born 1596, died 1680. Educated at Sedan; came to Oxford, 1624; 1628, minister to the English Company of Merchants at Elburg, West Prussia, etc. The whole of his life was spent in incessant journeyings with the object of promoting union among the Protestant Churches. The notice in the *Dict. of Nat. Biog.* (*sub nom* "Durie") is very imperfect, no reference being made, for instance, to Worthington's *Diary*, where his name frequently appears.

Eaton, Robert (see Calamy, but correct dates to following), "of Manchester, minister, born 23rd July, 1623; educated at Cambridge; died August 22nd, 1701." Admitted to Walton (Liverpool) 1655, and ejected thence, and also from Daresbury, Cheshire, in 1662. Subsequently he was for three years chaplain to Lord Delamere, etc., as in Calamy.

Eaton, Samuel, Independent minister of Dukinfield, second son of Richard Eaton, vicar of Great Budworth 1594-1664. "1664, January 12th, Saml. Eaton of Bredburie, minister, buried" (Stockport Register). (See *Notes and Queries*, 2nd Series, vol. i. p. 516, vol. ii. pp. 93, 138; Wood's *Ath. Oxon;* Ormerod, etc., etc.)

The references to him in these minutes (pp. 229-233) are very instructive.

Ellison, Mr. (Thomas), presented himself for ordination May, 1660, having a call to Flixton, probably as assistant to the old Mr. Woolmer, who did not die till October, 1660.

His college entrance is as follows: "Wadham Coll., Oxf., 1655; Ellison, Thomas, mat. 28th March, 1655 (Serviens), C.M.; received as servitor 25th March, $165\frac{4}{5}$; B.A. July, 1665."

His name does not appear in the Flixton Registers. He evidently renounced his Presbyterian ordination (if his ordination was completed)

on his presentation to Ashton-under-Lyne by Lord Delamere, 25th September, 1662 (and 14th January, 1662). It would appear from Newcome that his appointment to Ashton-under-Lyne was intended as an *arrangement*, but that in the end Lord Delamere's wishes for Harison's benefit proved futile. (For the rest see Baines.)

Firth, John, born 1625; presented himself for ordination April, 1650, being then "M.A. of Cambridge"; ordained to Fynningley (Nottingham). The register at Fynningley yields the following: "1646, Alex. Ashwell, minister; 1653, John Firth, minister curate" (Rev. G. H. Woodhouse's account of the Parish of Fynningley).

Fogg, John, born at Darcy Lever (Bolton). Calamy gives his birth as 1632, which must be incorrect, as Fogg was rector of Liverpool in 1645, and he had previously officiated at Wigan. For an account of his disturbance at Liverpool, in consequence of his refusal to take the Engagement, see Minutes, p. 135, and Picton's *Municipal Records*, pp. 203-7, etc. He was ejected from Liverpool 1662, and lived at Great Budworth, Cheshire, from 1665 to his death in 1670.

Fowler, Thomas, son of Thomas Fowler, stonemason, of Barley, Derbyshire; born at Barley 1625; school, Dronfield; admitted St. John's, Camb., July, 1640; presented himself to the Manchester Classis October, 1648, and ordained October 22nd to Sandiacre, Derbyshire. He must have left Sandiacre before 1661, when John Boylston occurs.

Francis, Arthur (see pp. 152, 170); presented himself for ordination October, 1648, being then 25 years old. He came with a discharge from Lambly (Notts), and a pretended call to Great Budworth; but, finally, he was ordained, not to Great Budworth, but to Stretford, in the Manchester Classis. He continues as representing Stretford in the classis up to at least June, 1652.

The editors of *Nonconformity in Cheshire* seem to have misread the account of Arthur Francis's ordination in inserting him into their account of Great Budworth.

Furness, Toby. The first mention of Toby Furness, previous to his officiating at Prestwich, is in the receipt book of Northenden Church, in which he is mentioned as preaching (about December, 1643).

The order of the Committee for Plundered Ministers, appointing him to Bury, was as follows :—

10th September, 1646.

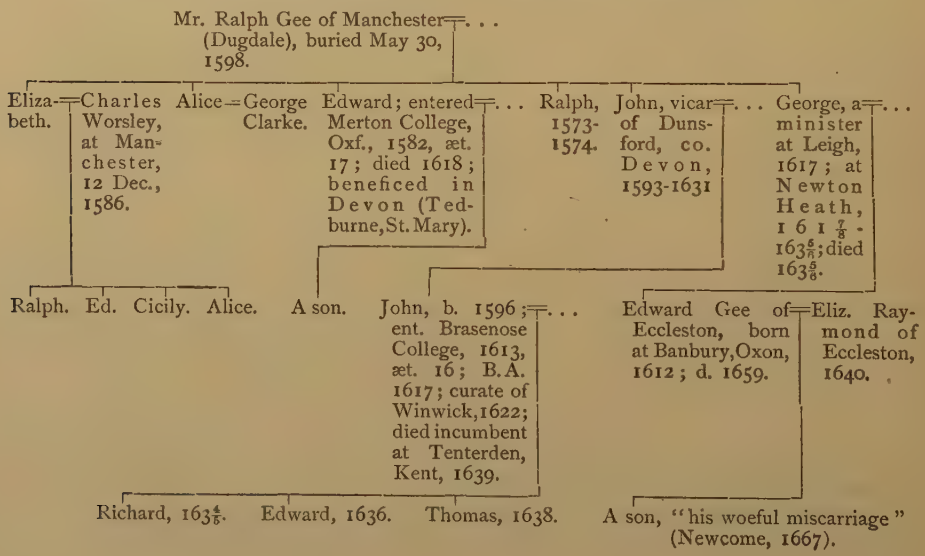
Whereas, the Rectory of the parishe church of Prestwich is sequestred from Mr. Allen for his delinquency ; it is ordered that the said rectory shall from henceforth stand sequestered to the use of Toby Furness, a godly and orthodox divine, and approved soe to be by the Divines appointed by ordinance of parliament for approbation of ministers in the said county, who is hereby appointed forthwith, etc.

He was appointed rector of Bury by the Committee of Plundered Ministers, August 26th, 1648, on the death of Andrew Lathom. (For the terms of the order, see Rec. Soc., vol. i. p. 40.)

Died shortly after 1652 (Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. i. p. 166). His widow died 11th February, 168$\frac{9}{0}$. (For his wife, see *Pal. Note Book*, vol. iv. p. 237 ; and for his children, Booker's *Prestwich*. The son Eliezer was born 1642, not 1648.)

Gee, Edward, of Eccleston ; the scribe of the Provincial Assembly of Lancashire (see Mr. C. W. Sutton's article on Gee in the *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*, and Mr. Bailey in *Local Gleanings*, vol. i. p. 208).

The following table and extracts are from Mr. Bailey's papers, presented to the Chetham Library by Mr. Chancellor Christie :—


Mr. Ralph Gee of Manchester (Dugdale), buried May 30, 1598.
Elizabeth.
Charles Worsley, at Manchester, 12 Dec., 1586.
Alice
George Clarke.
Edward; entered Merton College, Oxf., 1582, æt. 17; died 1618; beneficed in Devon (Tedburne, St. Mary).
Ralph, 1573-1574.
John, vicar of Dunsford, co. Devon, 1593-1631
George, a minister at Leigh, 1617; at Newton Heath, 1617 - 163$\frac{8}{9}$; died 163$\frac{8}{9}$.
Ralph.
Ed.
Cicily.
Alice.
A son.
John, b. 1596; ent. Brasenose College, 1613, æt. 16; B.A. 1617; curate of Winwick, 1622; died incumbent at Tenterden, Kent, 1639.
Edward Gee of Eccleston, born at Banbury, Oxon, 1612; d. 1659.
Eliz. Raymond of Eccleston, 1640.
Richard, 163$\frac{4}{5}$.
Edward, 1636.
Thomas, 1638.
A son, "his woeful miscarriage" (Newcome, 1667).

From Banbury Registers: "Edward, ye son to George Gee, bapt. ye 1 day of Novr, 1612." Admission Register, Brasenose, Oxford: "1626, Oct. 26, Edw. Gee, Oxon, Cler., Feb. 14." Said to have acted as chaplain to Dr. Parr, Bishop of Sodor and Man, succeeding him in 1643 in the bishop's living of Eccleston, although he occurs at Eccleston in 1640, and is described in the lists of Protestors as minister of Eccleston in 164½. The date given in the institution book at the Record Office is November 23rd, 1648.

Several works are conjecturally ascribed to him:—

164⅞. *An Exercitation concerning usurped power* (or Hollinworth's?).

1650. *A Vindication of the Oath of Allegiance* (by the author of the Exercitation).

1650. *A Plea for Non-Subscribers* (Martindale, p. 98).

1653. *A Treatise of Prayer.*[1]

1658. *The Divine Right and Origin of the Civil Magistrate.*[1]

See also the following references: Commons' Journals, vol. iii. pp. 270, 704; vol. v. p. 539. Lords' Journals, vol. vii. p. 701; vol. viii. p. 78.

Gilbert, Alexander (p. 91), had received a call (1648) to "a place in another classis," apparently the third classe, Blackburn or Whalley. In 1649 he appears as minister at Tockholes, being ordained there 10th April. He was laureated at Edinburgh 15th April, 1645.

"By an order of the committee of this county of 25th December, 1646, there is £40 per annum allowed to an orthodox divine to officiate at Tockholes chapel."

Guest, Randall, presented himself for ordination November, 1647, being about forty years old; ordained 9th February, 164⅞, to Pulford in Cheshire.

He must have remained at Pulford until 1658, as in that year he entered a son at St. John's, Cambridge. In 1660 he entered a second (Randolph) as "of Sutton, Cheshire, son of Randall Guest, clerk." If he had left Pulford it may account for Calamy knowing nothing of him, but I am informed by the rector of Pulford that the handwriting of

[1] These have his name on the title page.

Randall Guest is traceable in the burial registry up to December 31, 1663, and that in 1664 there is an entry: "July 25, Randle, son of Mr. Randle Guest of Pulford, and Joan his wife."

It may be that Randall Guest resigned in favour of his son George, whose induction entry is copied in the register, and dated 26th September, 1663 (not 1661, as in Ormerod).

Hall, Mr. James (see index). The cause of his numerous citations to the classis for ordination are explained by the following entry from the Bury Minutes :—

May 13, 1651.

Mr. Hall this day preached, and, together with Mr. Crompton, desired ordination by the classe . . . thesis given them both . . . and the class resolved in the case of Mr. Hall to consult with some neighbour class or the provincial, whether ordination may pass upon any without a particular call from some congregation.

July, 1651.

That Mr. Hall bring a certificate from . . . Mr. Crompton and the people of Runkorn, desiring him to be assistant in the said congregation.

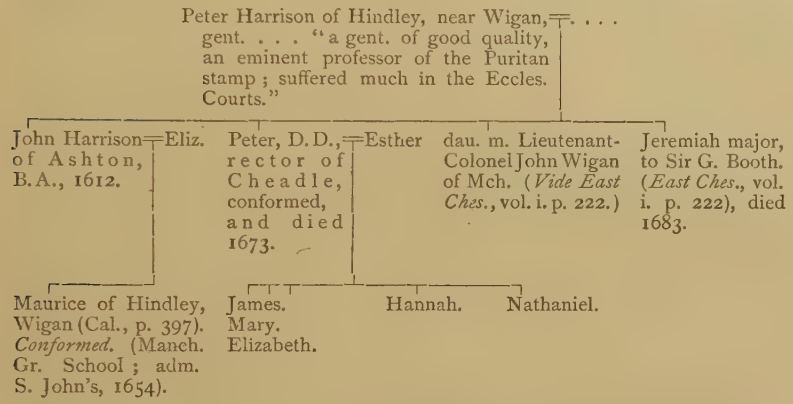
He occurs among the protestors in 1642 as minister of Birch chapel; in 1652 he appears at Shawe chapel (Minutes, p. 186). For possible reference see Newcome's *Autob.*, p. 92, etc. "Hall, James, of Newton, clerk, deceased, February 28th, 1662" (Manchester Reg.)

Halls, Edward (see p. 288). The occasion of his preaching before the classis is thus referred to by Newcome: "Tuesday, May 11, 1688, Mr. Edward Halls, an old acquaintance of my brothers & mine came in, and we prevailed with him to preach at the class, which he did on John xiv., 23."

The following entry may relate to him (Adm. Reg. S. John's, Camb.)— "$16\frac{39}{40}$, Halles, Edward, son of Miles H., deceased, lately rector of Sawtrey, Hunts; born at Sawtrey. School, Peterboro, Mr. Wilbore; adm. pensioner 25 Jan., ætate 18."

Harrison, John (see Mr. Sutton's article in *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*). There are many interesting deeds which throw much light on his history and that of his parents printed in the *Manchester Guardian*, March 1st,

1879, and *Local Gleanings*, vol. ii. p. 141 *seq.*; Rose's *Hist. Notes*, vol. i. p. 77.


Peter Harrison of Hindley, near Wigan, gent. . . . "a gent. of good quality, an eminent professor of the Puritan stamp; suffered much in the Eccles. Courts."
John Harrison of Ashton, B.A., 1612.
Eliz.
Peter, D.D., rector of Cheadle, conformed, and died 1673.
Esther
dau. m. Lieutenant-Colonel John Wigan of Mch. (*Vide East Ches.*, vol. i. p. 222.)
Jeremiah major, to Sir G. Booth. (*East Ches.*, vol. i. p. 222), died 1683.
Maurice of Hindley, Wigan (Cal., p. 397). *Conformed.* (Manch. Gr. School; adm. S. John's, 1654).
James.
Mary.
Elizabeth.
Hannah.
Nathaniel.

It would appear from a notice in the 39th Report of the Deputy Keeper that Harrison was a scholar of St. Mary Magdalen. There is, however, no trace to be found of him in the college registers.

It appears from Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. i. p. 155, that Harrison had been at Walmsley chapel before removing to Ashton. He appears at Ashton in 164½, signing the list of Protestors. This fact throws doubt on all Walker's statements with regard to the ejectment of Dr. Fairfax.

Heyrick, Richard (see Mr. Sutton's article in *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*, and Canon Raines' *Wardens of Manchester*).

Hilton, William (see p. 192); *c.p.* the following from the Bury Minutes:—

Feb. 9, 165½.

Ordered That seeing one Mr. Hilton took upon him to exercise in public at Blackrode, and is removed into another class upon our summons, he being a man very insufficient and unworthy, it is thought meet to certifie the same unto that class.

(2.) That whereas the said W. H. did pretend to baptize some children in one or both places, it is resolved upon the question that the said baptism is null, yet it is thought convenient that Mr. Pyke consult the first class about the baptism of such children.

Hilton has accordingly earned a place among Walker's suffering clergy (see *Suff.*, vol. i. p. 41). He is doubtless the W. Hulton who

was minister at Ringley, 1635-1647. The latter date is uncertain. In 1642 a W. Hilton occurs among the Protestors as "minister at Prestwiche." (See an account of W. Hulton in Walworth's *Correspondence*, pp. xxv. and 36.)

Hindley, Christopher. For an account see Abram's *Blackburn*, pp. 639, 640; *Local Gleanings*, vol. i. p. 34 *seq.;* and Smith's *Ribchester.* Instituted to Ribchester 5th February, 1617. "After his ejectment in 1649 he seems to have gone to live with his brother John, on the patrimonial farm at Cowell, but preached at Ribchester till his death" (1657).

The following are the entries relating to him in the Plundered Ministers' *MSS.* :—

May 4, 1649.

Ord. That the yearly rent reserved to the late Bp. of Chester out of the impropriate rectory of Ribchester, not exceeding £40 *p. a.*, be paid for increase of maintainence of Christopher Hyndley, minister of Ribchester, over and above the accustomed stipend of 20 marks *p. a.* payable by the said late bishop. And the trustees for the sale of bishop's lands are desired to issue their warrants to the treasurers for the sale of bishop's lands to pay same accordingly (together with his 20 marks per an.), and for that the said C. H. complaineth that his stipend is in arrear for five years last past, it is ordered [to be paid].

June 1, 1649.

The Committee having received several articles of notorious misdemeanours against C. H. min^r of R., which are thereupon referred to the examination of the Committee of the said county, to the end that upon the said Committee's certificate this Committee may proceed to a final hearing thereupon; it is ordered that the augmentation of £40 *p.a.*, granted by order of 4th May, be suspended till the Committee shall have heard the said cause and given further direction herein.

Holbrook, Richard. Born in Manchester, baptized at Collegiate Church 12th May, 1633; Trinity College, Cambridge; appears in the minutes January, 165$\frac{6}{7}$ and June, 1659; presented to Salford chapel by Robert Booth, Esq., of Salford, 9th February, 166$\frac{9}{0}$. In Mr. Bailey's *MSS.* (Chetham Library) he is described as chaplain in the College, 1661-2; ejected from Salford, 1662; lived in Salford, "applied himself to Physic," and died July 9th, 1676. (See Raines's *Wardens of Manchester*, vol. ii. pp. 135-6.)

Manchester Register, Marriages—"1661 Apl. 17, Richard Holbrooke, clerke, and Elizabeth Heyrick, daughter of Richard Heyrick, warden." ("1661½, Richard, a son, bapt.")

Holland, John (see p. 243), presented himself to ordination April, 1665; ordained in July to Weverham, Cheshire. In the Institution books at the Record Office is entered his presentation to Weverham by the King 30th October, 1662. The conjecture of the editors of *Nonconformity in Cheshire* as to his ejection must be incorrect.

Warrington Church notes—"Aug. 14, 1656, John Holland, min^r^, to Esther Barnes."

Curate of Chapel Mynshull, 1668-87 (?89). (Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxii. p. 82.)

Holland, Thomas. Calamy's identification of him with the Hollands of Denton is incorrect. He is almost certainly the son of Adam Holland of Newton (*Manchester Court Leet Records*, vol. iii. p. 209; Dugdale's *Visitation*, p. 247), and the above John Holland may be the younger brother. Born 1623, laureated at Edinburgh 15th April, 1645; ordained 15th April, 1647, to Ringley chapel. (For a list of the contributors to his increased stipend there see Walworth's *Correspondence*, p. 99.) He continued at Ringley till August or September, 1654, removing to Blakeley, whence he was ejected 1662. He retired to Newton, but in 1671 was living at Oldham (Raines *MSS.*, vol. xxiv. p. 276).

Burials at Collegiate Church—"1674, Dec. 28, Thomas Holland of Newton, deceased, in Oldham parish." "1674/5, Feb. 10, Hannah, wife of Thomas Holland, late of Newton, clerk, deceased, at Oldham." Will at Chester.

In Angier's *Diary* there is a note of his arrest under date 8th December, 1663.

The following are the entries relating to him in the Plundered Ministers' *MSS.*:—

Oct. 29, 1647.

By virtue of an order of both howses of parliament of 2 May, 1646, it is ordred that the yearly somme of £40 be allowed and paid out of the surplus of the tithes and profitt of the impropriate rectorie of Poolton, in the county of Lancaster, which are yet ondisposed of, sequestered from Sir Thomas Tildesley, delinquent, to and for the maintainence of Thomas Holland, minister of the chapel of Ringley, within the parish

of Prestwich, in the said countie; and the sequestrators of the premises are required to allow and pay the same unto him accordingly at such times and seasons of the year as the said tithes and profits shall grow due and payable.

January 11, $164\frac{7}{8}$.

Whereas this Committee, the 29th day of October, 1647, granted £40 a yeere out of the surplus of the tithes and profitts of the impropriate rectory of Poolton in the countie of Lancaster, w^{ch} were then undisposed of, sequestered from Mr. Thomas Tildesley, delinquent, to and for the maintainence of Thomas Holland, minister of the chapel of Ringley, within the parish of Prestwich, in the said countie, which said augmentation being formerly disposed of the said order becomes fruitless; this Committee doe therefore discharge the said order, and doe further order that the yerelie summe of £40 be allowed & paid out of the surplus of the tithes and profitts of the impropriate rectorie of Kirkham, in the said countie, which are yet undisposed of, sequestered from Thomas Clifton, Esq., delinquent, for the maintainence of the said Mr. Holland, and the sequestrators of the premises are required to paie the same unto him accordinglie at such tymes and seasons of the year as the said tithes and profitts shall grow due & payable, togeather with the arrears thereof payable since the said 29th day of October, 1647.

Hollinworth, Richard, chaplain of the Collegiate Church; died November, 1656. (See Canon Raines's *Fellows and Chaplains*, pp. 138-170, and Mr. C. W. Sutton in *Dict. of Nat. Biog.*, and *Transactions* of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, vol. vii.)

Hulme, Mr., preached at the last meeting of the classis. Probably the James Holme, who, according to Calamy, was "assistant" to Mr. Angier; more probably he was a probationer tabling with Angier, if so he is identical with the following: "James Hulme, a nonconformist minister, died Nov^{r} (1688 or 1689 *?*), aged 58; born in Rochdale parish."

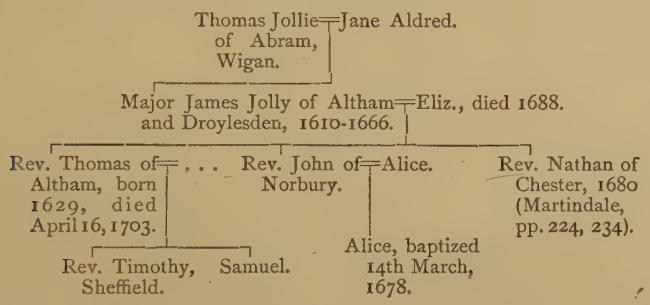
Jackson, James, born 1631; son of George Jackson of Houghend, Didsbury; school, Manchester; admitted sizar St. John's 7th September, 1649; followed Mr. Odcroft at Chorlton, 1654; officiated there for upwards of a year before receiving ordination (July 5, 1655). (See minutes under date February, $165\frac{7}{8}$.)

Still at Chorlton in 1662 and later. (The next minister there is Richardson, 1672.) See also Booker's *Didsbury*, p. 60, as to whether or not he succeeded Leadsom at Didsbury. For some time previous to 1665 he had been a chaplain of the College (see Mr. Christie's *Old*

Lancashire Libraries, p. 31); *c.p.* the following:—Admissions, Emanuel College, Cambridge: "$166\frac{5}{6}$, March 14, James Jackson, pensioner, from St. John's, B.A." (a son?).

Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. ii. p. 156:—"Mr. Jackson, July 17, 1690 (died); an ancient man, 82 years of age; carried to pulpit two years, having been many years there."

Jolly, Mr. (p. 295.) Probably Mr. John Jolly of the following table, taken from Mr. Bailey's *MSS.* in the Chetham Library. (See also *Bolton Weekly Journal* for December 5, 1865):—


Thomas Jollie of Abram, Wigan.
Jane Aldred.
Major James Jolly of Altham and Droylesden, 1610-1666.
Eliz., died 1688.
Rev. Thomas of Altham, born 1629, died April 16, 1703.
. . .
Rev. John of Norbury.
Alice.
Rev. Nathan of Chester, 1680 (Martindale, pp. 224, 234).
Rev. Timothy, Sheffield.
Samuel.
Alice, baptized 14th March, 1678.

John Jolly was born 1642 (?); Trinity College, Dublin; assistant for a time to Angier at Denton; ejected from Norbury, Cheshire; died at Gorton, June 16, 1682; buried at Oldham.

Jones, Edmund, son of John Jones, vicar of Eccles, born 1624; bred at Eccles; admitted sizar St. John's College, Cambridge, October, 1645; married January 21, $165\frac{2}{3}$ (Flixt. Reg.). See minutes for his ordination and succession to his father. B.A. 1660, Jesus College, Cambridge (from St. John).

On the 19th November, 1662, Robert Hartley was instituted to the vicarage of Eccles by the King, in place of Jones. In Angier's *Diary* there is a note of his arrest 8th October, 1663. Died May 2, 1674; will of same dated at Chester.

Jones, John, father of above; instituted to the vicarage of Eccles January 9, $16\frac{10}{11}$, on the presentation of King James. (Called D.D., Piccope, vol. xvi. p. 35.)

It is evident from his contributions to the various royal exactions under James and Charles I. that he was of the ordinary royalist type of clergyman, (see vol. xii. Record Society). Buried at Eccles, 21st October, 1648. (For a questionable note concerning him see *Manchester City News* "Notes and Queries," vol. vi. p. 190.)

Kellet, Joseph (see p. 94), born 1628; son of John Kellet, merchant, of Boston, Lincolnshire; school, Nottingham, under Mr. Leake, and Merchant Taylors, London, under Mr. Staple, six years; admitted sizar of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, April 26th, 1644; presented himself for ordination October, 1648; ordained November 28th to Hawton, in Nottinghamshire (near Newark). His name does not occur in the Hawton Register, nor in Torres's lists.

Lake, John (see appendix III., and life of R. Constantine, above). The nonjuring Bishop of Chichester (1624-89). See Watson's *History of Halifax*, p. 483; Thoresby's *Vicaria Leodiensis*, p. 99; and Mr. Giles Shaw in vol. i. of Oldham *Notes and Gleanings*, p. 78 *seq.* Baptised at Halifax December 5th, 1624; educated at Grammar School, near Halifax; St. John's College, Cambridge, under Cleveland, whose poems he edited along with Dr. Drake (Mayor's *Admissions to St. John's*, p. 38). He was made prisoner in Cambridge by the Parliamentary forces, escaped to Oxford, and passed four years with the Royal army. This latter statement must be taken as general, as he occurs in the capacity of domestic chaplain to Lady Derby at the time of the siege of Lathom House by Fairfax, 1644. (See *Stanley Papers*, Chet. Soc., vol. lxvi. p. 95.)

He preached his first sermon as lecturer in Halifax, July 26th, 1647, but in 1649 signs the register as "minister there." Henry Root, who was at Sowerby, speaks of him as always siding with the malignant party there. (See Minutes *supra*, p. 378.)

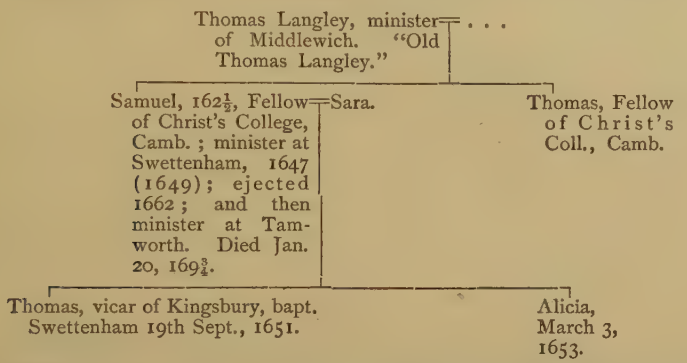
He occurs as preacher at Prestwich in February, $164\frac{9}{50}$, and was several times pressed by the classis to give in a testimony as to his doctrine and life, which he promised to do but did not perform.

His stay at Prestwich was very short, as by May, 1651, he was certainly supplying Constantine's place at Oldham. (For a full account of his settlement and troubles at Oldham, see note p. 135 and appendix III.; for his subsequent career, see Watson, *supra; Yorkshire Arch. and Topog. Journal*, vol. iii. p. 248.)

In the Oldham Registers are the following:—"John Lake, sonne of John Lake, born 11 of Feb., 1651; bapt. 25 of the same."

"Thomas, sonne of John Lake, born the 20 of January, 1653, & baptized the 31 of the same"

Langley, Samuel. The following pedigree is from Mr. Bailey's *MSS.*


Thomas Langley, minister of Middlewich. "Old Thomas Langley."
. . .
Samuel, 162½, Fellow of Christ's College, Camb.; minister at Swettenham, 1647 (1649); ejected 1662; and then minister at Tamworth. Died Jan. 20, 169¾.
Sara.
Thomas, Fellow of Christ's Coll., Camb.
Thomas, vicar of Kingsbury, bapt. Swettenham 19th Sept., 1651.
Alicia, March 3, 1653.

Lords Journals, vol. x. p. 188. "Jovis, 13th Aprilis, 1648:—S.L. to be instituted to rectory of Swettenham, void by resignation of Sa. Catterall; Elizabeth Davenport, patroness."

Lawrence, Edward, of Ellel (p. 320), born 1630; son of Mr. Edward Lawrence of Ellel, husbandman; bred under Mr. Schoolcraft; admitted sizar St. John's, Cambridge, 8th March, 164⅝; married Elizabeth Sharples (Dugdale's *Visitation*, p. 257). Ellel is a township in the parish of Cockerham. Evidently a royalist. Instituted rector of Halton, Lonsdale Hundred, 25th February, 166⅟. To be distinguished from the following.

Lawrence, Edward, of Garstang; admitted Magdalen College, Cambridge, 1645; vicar of Baschurch; pastor of the parochial chapel of Garstang. Married Ann Marsden (see Abram's *Blackburn*, p. 689). Author of *Christ's Power over Bodily Diseases.* His death described (1696) in a funeral sermon by Nathaniel Vincent, *The Perfect Man Described in his Life and End.*

Leadsam, Peter (1603-78), succeeded Clayton at Didsbury, 1650. Evidently intractable to the classis, and doubtless a royalist, as he was

appointed rector of Wilmslow by Sir Cecil Trafford 28th November, 1661 (and 23rd January, 166½); resigned it 1673; died July 22nd, 1678. (See Booker's *Didsbury*, p. 73.)

For the question of the disputed presentation of Leadsam to Wilmslow, see Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii. p. 651.

The entries in the institution books at the Record Office are as follow: "P.L., by Sir . . . Trafford, knt., 28 Nov., 1661." "P.L., by Sir Charles [?] Trafford, knt., 23 Jan., 166½."

Leadsam was inducted 6th December, 1661.

Leigh, William, born about 1614; "minister of Blackrod" (clerk of Wigan), 164½; of Newchurch (Culcheth), 1649-54 (in the fourth classis); first appears for Gorton November 11th, 1656, and represents it to the end of the minutes; buried at Denton Chapel, January 11th, 166⅝. To be distinguished from the following.

Leigh, William, eldest son of Thomas Leigh, M.A., master of Bishop Stortford School; Christ's College, Cambridge, B.A. 165⅔, M.A. 1656; author of *Elegies on the Deaths of Dr. Samuel Bolton and Edward Bright*; died on or before August 5th, 1662.

Lightfoot, Mr., probably *John*, who is found as rector of Bury in 165⅘, if not before; instituted rector of Bury, 1660; resigned the same year, probably on his nomination to Bowdon vicarage; died at Bowdon, December 22nd, 1661. He was doubtless selected as an Episcopalian champion of the "gentlemen" against the classis, because of his known character. In 1655 certain information was laid against him by some of the congregation of Bury of certain mistakes and miscarriages in point of doctrine and practice. (Bury *MS.*)

Lindley, John, born 1631; presented himself to ordination December, 1655; ordained to Snaith, Yorkshire, February, 165⅝. (Probably related to Lindley, John, Trinity College, Camb., A.B. 1669.)

Lownds, Edward (p. 128), presented himself for ordination November, 1649; M.A., Glasgow. (See Newcome's *Diary*, p. 211.)

Malden, John, born 1623; studied at Oxford (see p. 34); ordained to Cheswardine 15th April, 1647; removed from Cheswardine, perhaps to

Okeley Parva rectory (archdeaconry of Colchester, $164\frac{8}{9}$). Towards the end of 1657 is found at Newport, Salop, where he was among those who ordained Philip Henry; ejected from Newport, 1662; died May 23rd, 1681, at Alkington, near Whitchurch (Salop).

Maskall, Alexander (see pp. 177-9), presented himself for ordination May, 1652; ordained to Sheereburne (York). His name is not discoverable in the registers at Sherburn, nor Sherburn (Milford). (? A son of Alexander Maskall, who in 1588 was rector of Lees Magna—Deanery of Chelmsford.)

Maurice [*Morris*], *Mr.* (see p. 271); (?) *i.q.*, Hy. Morris of Burnley, p. 8; Saddleworth Register, p. 421; Whitaker's *Whalley*, vol. i. p. 221, or the following: William Morris of Manchester, clerk, who on 10th June, 1658, married Lydia, the daugher of John Wigan. (See Beamont's *Appleton*, p. 39). For a Henry Maurice, who was chaplain to Archbishop Sancroft, see Birch's *Life of Tillotson*, p. 194 (also p. 363 for a publication of his).

The following entries from the Plundered Ministers' *MSS.* relate to Henry Morris of Burnley:—

November 13, 1650.

By virtue of an order of parliament of the 2 May, 1646, it is ordered that the yearly sum of £50 be paid out of the profits of the impropriate rectory of Newton, in the county of Lancaster, sequestered from Mr. Clifton of Lytham, delinquent, to and for increase of the maintainence of Henry Morris, minister of the chappell of Burneley, in the said county, his present maintainence being not above £16 a yeare, and the said chappelry consisting of 1,500 communicants, provided the minister of Newton have a competent maintainence, unlesse some good cause be shewne to the contrary before this Committee on the 26 day of December next.

December 31, 1650.

By vertue of an order of parliament of the 2 May, 1646, it is ordered that the yearly summe of £50 be paid out of the proffitts of the impropriate rectory of Kirkham, in the county of Lancaster, sequestered from Thomas Clifton of Lytham, Esq^{r}, delinquent, to and for increase of y^{e} maintainence of Henry Morris, minister of y^{e} chappell of Burneley, within y^{e} parish of Whalley in y^{e} said county, his present maintainence £16 a yeare, and the said chappelry consisting of fifteene hundred communicants, provided the minister of Newton be first paid the augmentacon of £50 a yeare to him granted out of the premisses, and the commissioners for sequestracons in the said county are required to pay the same accordingly, to be accompted from the 13 November last, at

such times and seasons of the year as the same shall become due and payable according to the purport of an act of this present parliament in that behalfe.

December 18, 1651.

Whereas this Com^tee have the 31 of December, 1650, granted the yearly summe of £50 to be paid out of the proffits of the impropriate rectory of Kirkham, in the county of Lancaster, sequestered from Thomas Clifton of Litham, Esq^r, delinquent, for increase of the maintainence of Henry Morris, minister of the chappell of Burnley, in the parish of Whalley in the said county, the said Mr. Morris now complayneth that he can receive noe benefit of the said graunt by reason, this Com^tee had before granted the whole proffits of the said rectory to severall other ministers within the said parish of Kirkham. It is therefore ordered that the said order bee discharged, and that in lieu thereof the yearely summe of £50 bee paid to the said Mr. Morris out of the proffits of the impropriate tythes arising out of Aughton, Bayley, and Chaigley, in the said county, sequestered from Richard Sherborne, Esq^r, recusant, for increase of the maintainence of the said Mr. Morris. And the commissioners for sequestrations in the said county are required to pay the said £50 a yeare to the said Mr. Morris according to the purport of the act of parliament on that behalfe.

Jo Danvers. G. Millington.
W^m Leman. Chr. Martyn.

December 24, 1652.

Upon consideration had of the petition of Henry Morris, minister of the chappell of Burnley, in the parish of Whalley, in the county of Lancaster, prayeing an augmentation out of the surplusage of rents of seaverall impropriations in the said county, sequestered from papists and delinquents, it is ordered that the commissioners for sequestrations in the said county doe certifie unto this Committee a particular account of what rents and profits of tithes or impropriations are disposed of within the said county to the end that an augmentacon of maintainence may be maid therout to the peticioner not exceeding fifty pounds a yeare, unles good cause shall bee showne to the contrary before this Comittee on the 11 day of ffebb. next.

W. Cawley. Gilbert Millington.
Will. Hay. John Weaver.

February 11^th, 165$\frac{2}{3}$.

Ordered—That the certificate of two of the commissioners for sequestrations in the county of Lancaster, made in pursuance of the order of this Committee of the 24^th December last, granted upon the peticon of Henry Morris, minister of the chappell of Burnely, in the parish of Whalley, in the said county, bee taken into consideration on the 22 Feb. instant.

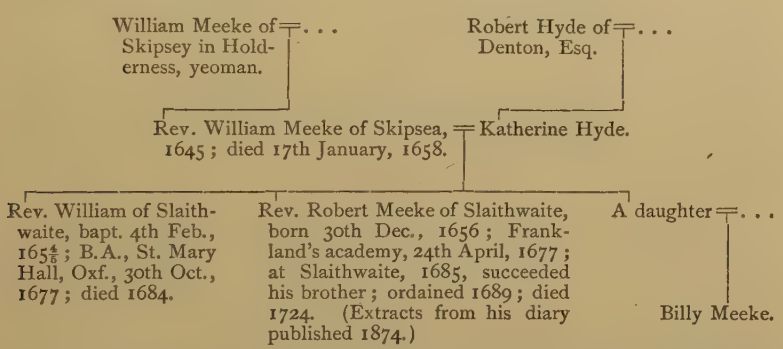
Gilbt. Millington. Jo. Lowry.
Jo. Bourchier. Ro. Gratwicke.

Feb. 22, 165$\frac{2}{3}$.

Upon consideration had of the certificate of Aspinall and Robert Cunliffe, two of the commissioners for sequestracons in the county of Lancaster, made in pursuance of the order of this Com^{tee} of the 24th of December last, grounded upon the peticon of Henry Morris, minister of the chappell of Burnely in the said county, it is ordered that all arreares of the augmentacon of £50 a yeare formerly granted to the said Mr. Morris out of the impropriate rectory of Kirkham, in the said county, to him due and unpaid, be paid unto him out of the arreares of rent of the impropriate rectory of Goosenargh in the said county, formerly sequestered from the late Thomas Tildesley, Esq., deceased. And the commissioners for sequestrations in the said county are required to pay the said arreares to the said Mr. Morris out of the premisses according to the act of parliament on that behalfe.

Gilbt. Millington. Ri. Aldworth.
Ja. Temple. Wm. Cawley.

Meeke, William:—


William Meeke of Skipsey in Holderness, yeoman.
Robert Hyde of Denton, Esq.
Rev. William Meeke of Skipsea, 1645; died 17th January, 1658.
Katherine Hyde.
Rev. William of Slaithwaite, bapt. 4th Feb., 165$\frac{4}{5}$; B.A., St. Mary Hall, Oxf., 30th Oct., 1677; died 1684.
Rev. Robert Meeke of Slaithwaite, born 30th Dec., 1656; Frankland's academy, 24th April, 1677; at Slaithwaite, 1685, succeeded his brother; ordained 1689; died 1724. (Extracts from his diary published 1874.)
A daughter
Billy Meeke.

William Meeke, of Salford, was ordained to Methley in Yorkshire. He had previously been either minister or probationer at Skipsey, where he published a pamphlet, *The Faithful Scout*, 164$\frac{5}{6}$. It would appear more likely that he had only received a call as assistant minister at Methley, which was a valuable rectory. His stay there could not have been long, as he appears as minister of Salford in January, 164$\frac{8}{9}$.

Meeke's name nowhere appears in the register of matriculated students of the University of St. Andrews. The question of his college is curious (see note, p. 73). Meeke wrote a diary, which is mentioned in the will of his son Robert. Mr. J. E. Bailey vainly attempted to trace its whereabouts. (See *Notes and Queries*, 6th series, vol. ix. p. 208.) The above pedigree is taken from Mr. Bailey's *MSS.*

Mosley, Francis (see life in Raines's *Fellows and Chaplains*, and correct as follows:) admitted to Emanuel College, Cambridge, September 6th, 1646; M.A. 1654; Fellow 1650; vicar of Bunbury 1654-61; presented to the vicarage of Bowdon, by the Bishop of Chester, 19th November, 1667; and to the rectory of Wilmslow, by John Newton, gent., 16th February, 167$\frac{3}{4}$.

Murcot, John (see *Moses in the Mount—Works*, 1657), born, 1623, in Warwick; school, Mr. Dugard, then Merton College, Oxford, 1640; driven away by the King's forces, 164$\frac{2}{3}$; studied with Mr. Ley of Cheshire; returned to Oxford, took his degree, and again returned to Cheshire; presented himself to ordination, February, 164$\frac{7}{8}$; ordained to Astbury, Cheshire. No trace of his name appears in the register there. He shortly after removed to Eastham, but no date can be fixed, as there is a gap in the Eastham Registers between the years 1644-1654. At most he did not stay more than twelve months at Eastham, being succeeded by Richard Banner. Some time after June 30th, 1648, he was presented to the rectory of West Kirby, by the Committee for Plundered Ministers, in place of his father-in-law, Ralph Marsden. From here he was motioned to Chester, but without result, and crossed to Dublin.

"In 1653 he styles himself in the vestry book of St. Michan's, Dublin, as preacher of the gospel at St. Owen's. He seems to have been previously engaged in the same capacity in St. Michan's itself, for the vestry book, under date of 29th August, 1651, mentions the engagement of a Mr. Thomas Seele as preacher there 'before Mr. Moorecott was settled in this parish.'

"Murcott came to Dublin in 1651, at the invitation of Sir Robt. King, whose guest he became. He soon attached himself to the congregation of Dr. Samuel Winter, Provost T.C.D., which worshipped as Independents in the church of St. Nicholas Within, and he undertook, at their request, the work of 'teaching' among them, the pastorate being left to Dr. Winter. Murcot subsequently became pastor of the Independent congregation worshipping at St. Michan's, and in 1653 we find him still established as pastor at St. Crudeon's. He died, aged 29, on 20th November, 1654, and was buried in St. Mary's Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral." (W. Reynall in the *Irish Builder*, 1st August, 1888.)

A volume of *Several Works of John Murcot.* London, 1657.

Newton, Hugh (see p. 26), see Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. ii. pp. 11, 103.

Nicholson, Thomas, presented himself for ordination September, 1648. Reg. of Edinburgh Graduates—"28 July, 1648, Thomas Nicolsonus." "1676, July 7, Tho., son of Tho. Nicholson, late of Hope in the Co. of Derby." (Manch. Reg.)

Norman, Thomas, senior, probably of St. Alban's Hall, Oxford, 1581. Preacher at Gorton, 1617-22; at Birch, 1623-33; at Newton (Winwick), 1642 to his death in 1649. Will at Chester, 1649.

Norman, Thomas, junior, appears at Gorton, November, 1650, to June, 1651. His successor (Taylor) occurs at Gorton in April, 1652. In 1655 he is named as of Newton-in-Makerfield. "March 23rd, 1666, Thomas Norman, minister of the word of God at Chadkirk, buried."

Nuttall [*? Ralph*] (see p. 205 *seq.*) In April, 1649, the people of Rivington (in the second classis) presented a petition desiring that Mr. Nuttall might be their minister. At the following meeting of the classis he was approved. He officiated there in 1650 (*Survey*, p. 35). He occurs at Stretford, 165$\frac{3}{4}$, and as settled there September, 1654, to May, 1655, being succeeded by Scoles.

Odcroft, John (see Booker's *Chorlton*, p. 304), evidently an unordained person (see pp. 164, 166). He is found at Stretford, 1649-50, and probably longer, removing then to Chorlton and remaining till 1654.

Israel, son of John Odcroft, minister of Chorlton, was baptized 8th day of August, 1651; 1663, September 24, Susan Odcroft, Failsworth, widow, buried.

Ottiwell, Joseph, born about 162$\frac{7}{8}$. Admitted Emanuel College, Cambridge September 6th, 1646; presented himself for ordination December, 1651; ordained to Chelford, in the county of Chester; remained probably till 1652, in which year (November 19th) he was presented to Wrenbury, in the county of Chester, by the Committee for Plundered Ministers, having officiated there some months before; he held Wrenbury till 1670. (See Booker's *Birch*, where he is spoken of as parson of Aston, in the county of Chester, and Ellesmere, in the county of Salop.)

Pott, Nehemiah (see Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii. p. 437,) Born 18th August, 1603 (in the minutes he is simply described as "above twenty-four" in 1647); presented himself for ordination to Swettenham, March, $164\frac{6}{7}$, but did not stay there, as he signs the attestation of the Cheshire ministers as "minister at Winkle."

A son, Caleb, was baptized 20th April, 1649, at Macclesfield; buried at Macclesfield, January 24th, $16\frac{4}{5}\frac{9}{0}$.

Pyke, Thomas, 1622 to August 19th, 1676. First preached at Walmsley chapel (Bolton parish); at Ratcliffe before 1646; first fruits January, $168\frac{2}{3}$; ejected thence 1662. (See several notices of him in Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. i. p. 279, etc.; and Heywood's *Works*, p. 566.)

Rathband, Abel, M.A. 22nd July, 1637, Edinburgh; 1648 minister of Writtle, Essex, by sequestration from Dr. Smith (professor of Greek, Oxon.).

Rathband, Nathaniel, younger son of William Rathband, the elder; M.A. Edinburgh, 31st July, 1632; minister at Sowerby, 1635-45; 1645, one of the four preachers at York, at the Minster; 1652-6 (about), minister at Prestwich; 1656, minister at Keighley (Ripley), York. Newcome saw him in York in 1665.

Rathband, William, the elder (father of Nathaniel and William the younger), described as having preached nineteen years in a chapel in Lancashire (Ainsworth chapel). 1620, curate of Cockey; 1631, Blackley; 1643, appointed by the House of Lords to Leighton Buzzard; 1643-4, a member of the Assembly of Divines. Died soon after. (For works see Hanbury's *Memorials*, vol. ii. pp. 272, 292.)

Rathband, William, the younger. Entered Emanuel College, Cambridge, as sizar, 7th April, 1643; B.A. 1646; appointed Fellow of Wadham, 3rd October, 1648, by decree of the Visitors, and admitted 5th February, $164\frac{8}{9}$ (de parva Lever, Lanc.), and incorporated B.A. 10th October, 1648; M.A. 1649; Bursar of the College 1652; Librarian 1653. His last appearance in the bursar's books is 1658.

According to Calamy, ejected from Southold-by-Burntwood; "after many removes settled at Highgate, and died there 1696." (See David's *Essex*, p. 509, etc.)

Richardson, Edward (Edmund). Born 1632; ordained 27th July, 1658, to Stretford; continued at Stretford up to the close of the classical meetings, but in 1661 he is described as "of Manchester, clerk," and "chaplain preaching the sermon at six o'clock on Lord's day morning at Manchester;" ejected 1662; 1672, had a license at Chorlton under the Indulgence. Died 1680.

Samson, John, see pp. 190-5. (? *i.q.* Samson of Bradpole, in the county of Dorset.—Calamy's account, p. 266.) See Entries to Wadham College, p. 102: "John Sampson, matriculate 19 June, 1629; Devon, fil. Johannis de Cotleigh, pleb.; ætat. 18."

Sandiford, Mr., see p. 321. (? *i.q.* William Sandiford, admitted pensioner Emanuel College, Cambridge, 1642, July 2.)

Sandiforth, John: "M. 20 July, 1654 (pleb. fil.), c.m.; received as C. 2 June, 1654; restored by Bursar Pope 29 Oct., 1655 or 1657" (Wadham Reg.).

Scoles, Jeremiah, son of George Scoles of Salford; baptized at the parish church, Manchester, 14th June, 1629; admitted Emanuel College, 5th September, 1646; minister at Stretford, 1655-7; 1659, vicar of Norton (Derby); ejected 1662; returned to Salford; buried at Manchester, 9th April (or 27th according to Newcome), 1685; married (1656) Deborah, daughter to Nathaniel Rathband.

Seddon, Robert, younger son of Peter Seddon; baptised at Prestwich, October, 1629; educated at Ringley; entered Christ College, Cambridge, 1647; B.A. 1653, M.A. 165$\frac{5}{6}$; tabled with John Angier. At Salford, 1653 to April, 1656; then at Langley, being ejected 1662. Died at Prestwich, 24th March, 1695. (See Calamy, *sub nom.* "Langley"; and Walworth's *Correspondence*, pp. xiii. and 70.) To be distinguished from the Robert Seddon, minister of Altcar in 1646.

Stapleton, William (see entries to St. John's, p. 98), son of William Stapleton, husbandman; born at Kirton (near Boston), Lincolnshire; school, Kirton; admitted sizar of St. John's College, Cambridge, 6th July, 1651; ordained, 1653, to Snaith, in the county of York. No mention of him occurs there. (See Heywood's *Diaries*, vol. ii. p. 283.)

Stirrup, Ralph, M.A. of Emanuel College, Cambridge; presented to rectory of Ashton-on-Mersey 14th April, 1632; buried March 10th, $16\frac{29}{40}$; married at Leigh, 1623, to Cristian Collen.

Stopford, Joshua. For good account by Mr. J. E. Bailey see *Palatine Note Book*, vol. i. p. 155. Born 1636; Brasenose College, Oxford, 1654; B.A. 1657; presented himself for ordination August 10th, 1658; 1660, prebend of Dunnington; 1663, All Saints, York; 1667, St. Martin; died 3rd November, 1675 (see *ibid.* for works).

Swan, John, born 1618 (about). Described in 1636 as a poor scholar of Magdalen, Oxford (*vide* Bloxam's *Magd. Coll. Register*, vol. iii. p. 163); matriculated 1635; ordained August 4th, 1647, to Baddeley, in Cheshire; seems to have held the living till his death in 1681, being re-presented by Sir Thomas Manwayring, 3rd November, 1662.

Symonds, Robert (see Raines *MSS.*), son of Robert Symonds of Elton; baptised 10th September, 1598; 1637, chaplain of the Collegiate Church. In 1646 he is described as "of Failsworth," and in 1647 was preaching at Middleton, as assistant to Peter Ashton, without approbation of the classis, being deprived and inhibited. He occurs at Shaw, in the Manchester Classis, $16\frac{49}{50}$; 1652-62, rector of Dalbury, in the county of Derby; in 1660 returned to Middleton, and was re-presented 8th November, 1662; died there 21st March, 1681.

Taylor, Hugh, born 1619; laureated at Edinburgh 3rd April, 1640; presented himself to ordination August 4th, 1647; ordained to Ellenbrook. Is not mentioned as being there at the time of the Survey.

Taylor, Zachary, born 1618 or 1619; acted as chaplain in the King's army; subsequently officiated in some minor capacity at Grappenhall, in Cheshire, from which place he came to the Manchester Classis. He was presented by the people of Gorton to the classis for their minister in December, 1651, and he occurs at Gorton up to April, 1653. In July, 1653, he is found as a member of the Bury Classis, at first as minister at Cockey, but later acting as assistant to Mr. Bath, and being ejected, in 1662, from Rochdale. After his ejection he acted as schoolmaster at Bury and Bolton; died February, $169\frac{2}{3}$.

"1652, November 28, Samuel, son to Mr. Zacharie Taylor, minister" (Warrington Church Register). "1653, Zacharie, son of Mr. Zacharie Taylor of Little Boulton, born 20th, bapt. 24th April, 1653." "1655, Richard, son of Mr. Zacharie Taylor of Little Boulton, born 6th, bapt. 10th August, 1655; sepult. 20th August, 1655." This Zachary junior is author of *The Surey Impostor*, etc.

Thomasson, George, born about 1614; occurs among the protestors of Ashton-under-Lyne in $164\frac{1}{2}$ as assistant to Harrison. In 1644 Newcome mentions a Mr. Thompson, now parson at Stilton (see also Martindale's *Autob.*, p. 38.) He was approved by the classis to Ellenbrook in August, 1649, and in January, $16\frac{4}{5}\frac{9}{0}$, preached before the class, but could not have remained at Ellenbrook, as James Valentine was appointed there by the Committee of Plundered Ministers in 1650. According to Calamy he was ejected from Heywood Chapel, and died 1672.

Tilsley, John (see Mr. J. E. Bailey's biography of him in *Lanc. and Chesh. Antiquarian Notes;* and further particulars in Mr. Christie's *Old Lancashire Libraries*), born 1614; laureated Edinburgh, 1637; curate at Deane, 1642; vicar of Deane, 1643; ejected 1662; died 12th December, 1684.

Valentine, James, occurs at Ellenbrook. November, 1650, and found there up to at least December, 1652. "Mr. Valentine mar., Eccles, Lanc.; buried March 14, $168\frac{9}{1}$; his son the Monday after; had seven children, the old man near 80." (See Northowram Reg., p. 66.)

The following entries from the proceedings of the Committee for Plundered Ministers relate to him :—

Oct. 30, 1650.

Whereas, this Committee have, 21 Dec., 1646, granted £40 *p.a.* out of the impropriate Rectory of Eccles . . . sequestered from Christopher Anderton . . . for the maintainence of the minister of the Chapel of Ellingbury, in the parish of Eccles. *Ordered*, that the said £40 be from time to time paid & continued to Mr. James Valentine, hereby constituted minister of the said Chapel.

Jan. 22, $165\frac{0}{1}$.

(Recital of above, and order for payment of arrears) for such time as he hath officiated the cure of the said Chapel, and it is further ordered that the further yearly sum of £10 be added . . . out of the profit of the said rectory.

Dec. 17, 1651.

(Recital of No. 1) And the said Mr. Valentine complaineth that the said augmentation is become void by reason of the said Mr. Anderton's composition for his delinquency. It is therefore ordered that the said order be discharged, and that in lieu thereof the yearly sum of £50 be paid out of the impropriate rectories of Ormeskirke & Childwall, sequestered from James, late Earl of Derby, delinquent, and James Anderton of Birkley, papist and delinquent.

March 3, 165½

(Recital of above) But the said Mr. Valentine complaineth that by reason of other augmentations formerly granted out the said rectories he can reap no fruit by virtue of the said order; it is therefore ordered that the yearly sum of £50 be paid out of the impropriate rectories of Holland and Childwall, sequestered from the said Earl of Derby and James Anderton, Esq.

May 19, 1652 (order for payment of arrears since 24 June, 1651).

Vaughan, Henry, born about 1617; ordained April 15th, 1647, to Moreton Sey (three miles from Market Drayton, Salop). I am informed by the rector that there are no entries about him in the register.

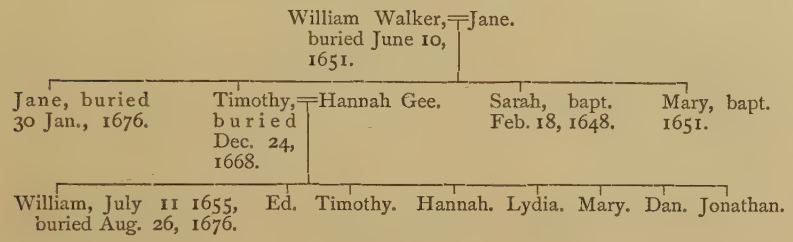
Walker, John, M.A., Glasgow, a son of William (below). First appears at Newton, February, 164⅞; from November, 1649, represents Newton in the place of his father, up to 1662, when he was ejected. "Feb. 8, 1683, Mr. John Walker of Mothley, minister of the word of God, buried."

Calamy describes him as living in 1698, but this may be a confusion of him with the John Walker who was minister at Didsbury 1678-85 (see Booker's *Didsbury*, p. 61), and who occurs in the minutes of the United Brethren (see index), being then (1696) minister at Bolton. This latter had a son also called John.

Walker, William, father of above (see Dr. Renaud's edition of Raines' *Fellows*, p. 174), correct and add as follows: Styled "clerk, minister of the College of Manchester," in June 15th, 1625; curate of Littleborough, July, 1629; curate of Standish, 1639, under John Leigh; occurs as minister at Newton Heath among the lists of protestors 164½; chaplain of the College, 1648; resigned Newton Heath to his son 1649.

About 1650 was also rector of Brindle, as appears from the list in Fishwick's *Rochdale*, p. 110; buried June 10th, 1651, at Manchester. [? Whether some of the above details refer to William Walker of Whalley.]

The date of death given by Canon Raines is wrong. See following from Mr. J. E. Bailey's *MSS.* :—



Walton, James, born 1600, "clerk of Bolton & Deane" 1642, "of Deane" 1646; occurs as minister at Horwich in the Bury Minutes 1647. Removed from Horwich to Blackley June, 1648, and remained at Blackley till July, 1652, when he removed, but is still found preaching before the classis in 1654 and 1658. He was ejected from Shaw chapel 1662, and died, according to Calamy, 1664.

Wigan, John (see Mr. Bailey's life of him in *Local Gleanings*, vol. i. p. 229), the Independent minister of Gorton and Birch. See Minutes, p. 30 (1647). Wigan had removed from Gorton to Birch the year previous (1646).

Woolmer, Edward, matriculated at Oxford (Oriel College), 31st January, 1605, being then sixteen years of age, and noted as of Warwickshire, and of plebeian birth; B.A. 20th April, 1611, being then of All Souls. "1616, Edward Woolmer, clerk, and Mary Woodhead, married October 27th (Warrington Reg.). Incumbent of Flixton 1629; buried there May 8th, 1660. (His wife, Mary, buried April 27th, 1668.)

On January 18th, 1638, appointed chaplain of the Collegiate Church, but resigned on 20th July following, "being hindered by divers necessary occasions and employments from residence, and the discharge of my chaplain's place." In $163\frac{8}{9}$, March, is described as Rural Dean of

Manchester. Canon Raines' conjecture as to his descent (*MSS.*, vol. xliii. p. 59) is evidently untenable.

In the Lanc. and Ches. Antiq. Soc., vol. iv., Woolmer's incumbency at Flixton is dated from 1621. On what authority?

The following entries relating to Woolmer are taken from the Plundered Ministers' *MSS.* :—

Oct. 7, 1646.

By virtue of an order of both houses of parliament of 2 May last, it is ordred that the yearly rent of £16 reserved to Stockett Lutwich, prebend of Litchfield, out of the impropriate rectory of Flixton, in the county of Lancaster, be paid to and for increase of the maintainence of Edward Wolmer, minister of the parish church of Flixton aforesaid, over and above his present yearlie maintainence of £20 a yere, and the sequestrators of the premisses are required to pay the same accordinglie at such tymes and seasons of the yeare as the said rent shall grow due and payable.

June 20, 1648.

Whereas this Committee have the 7th Oct., 1646, granted the yearelie rent of £16 reserved to Stock Lutwich, prebend of Litchfield, out of the impropriate rectory of Flixton, in the countie of Lancaster, to and for increase of the maintainence of Edward Wolmer, minister of the parish church of Flixton aforesaid; it is ordered that the farmer of the premisses doe forthwith paie unto the said Mr. Woolmer all arreares of the said £16 a yeare remayning in his hands, and continue the payment hereof unto him from tyme to tyme hereafter, as the said rent grow due and payable.

October 18, 1650.

Whereas this Committee have the 17 [*sic*] Oct., 1646, graunted a yearlie rent of £16 reserved to Stockett Lutwich prebendary of Lichfield, out of the impropriate rectory of Flixton, in the countie of Lancaster, for increase of the maintainence of Edward Wolmer, minister of the parish church of Flixton aforesaid; it is ordered that the trustees for sale of Dean and Chapter's lands doe, and they are desired to issue their warrant to the treasurers for sale of Dean and Chapter's lands, to pay unto the said Mr. Woolmer, or unto Colonell Egerton to his use, the summe of £12, for three quarters rent of the premisses, due 25 December, 1649, or in default thereof the said trustees are desired to certifie what obstruccion they find in the payment thereof to this Committee.

Worsley, R., third son of Ralph Worsley of Platt, by a second marriage. (See Dugdale, p. 338.) For an account of him see Booker's *Birch*, p. 27, and Earwaker's *East Cheshire*, vol. ii. p. 504. Presented himself for ordination March, 165$\frac{2}{3}$, coming from Pembroke College,

Cambridge, and was ordained to Chelford in Cheshire. He did not stay there beyond 1657, being succeeded by Mr. Hugh Henshaw. See Newcome's *Autob.*, p. 47, for his "light carriage" at Chelford. In 1658 he styles himself pastor of Macclesfield, and in 1668 as vicar of Egmanton, in the county of Notts.

Worthington, John, born 1620; B.A. Catherine Hall, Cambridge; tabled with Angier; ordained to Oldham 15th April, 1647, but almost immediately after found at Tockholes (1647-$\frac{48}{50}$). (A Worthington occurs among the vicars of Mottram in Longdendale in 1676.)

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NOTE.—As the names of *places* represented at the Manchester Classis are repeated every few pages, it has not been thought necessary to index them fully. Place-names are printed in capitals, names of ministers in italics, and of laymen in ordinary type. The larger figures denote some reference of more interest.

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